WestStar accepting applications for leadership program

Special to the State Gazette

MARTIN, Tenn. — Applications to participate in the largest and oldest regional leadership development program in Tennessee are now available from WestStar, which serves the 21 counties of West Tennessee and is operated by the University of Tennessee at Martin.

For applications and additional information contact WestStar at 731-881-7298 or on line at www.utm.edu. The deadline for application is Nov. 16. Anyone can apply to participate in the program. Nominations are accepted, but not required. Class members will be competitively selected to participate in the 2012 program.

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Participants learn new leadership skills and develop strategies for assisting communities in solving problems and maximizing potential. Participants also become part of a growing network of other leaders who, through mutual support and assistance, shape the future of West Tennessee.

WestStar’s vision is that it will be the premier leadership program in the U.S. that establishes an elite group of people bonded by their commitment to realizing the educational, economic and social development of West Tennessee.

The WestStar program consists of eight specially designed seminar programs addressing contemporary major issues important to the development of West Tennessee. Each seminar takes place over a one-and-a-half day period, with a graduation program in June. The program begins Jan. 5.

Last year’s graduating class brought the total number of alumni to 617.


Free Business Advice Available

The Chamber of Commerce and the Tennessee Small Business Development Center (TSBDC) are providing free confidential one-on-one consultations to entrepreneurs and existing business owners.

Business consultant Erik Markin, of the University of Tennessee at Martin Tennessee Small Business Development Center (TSBDC) at the University of Tennessee at Martin, will be at the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce in Huntington, noon to 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, November 8th. He is available to help aspiring entrepreneurs and existing business owners with advice on a business plan, financing options, marketing, customer service, cash flow and other issues.

The consultations are one-on-one, confidential and free. Appointments may be made by contacting the chamber at 731-886-4664 or by contacting Markin directly at 731-587-7333. For additional services offered by TSBDC, go to www.tsbdc.org.

Small biz advice offered

Erik Markin, University of Tennessee at Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center/Tennessee Small Business Development Center consultant, will help aspiring entrepreneurs and existing business owners with business advice from 1-4:30 p.m. Nov. 10 at the Paris-Henry County Chamber of Commerce.

Markin recently joined the TSBDC after spending five years in the financial industry and owning and operating two small businesses. He will be giving advice about business planning, financing options, marketing, customer service, cash flow and other issues. The consultations are one-on-one, confidential and free.

Appointments can be made by contacting the Paris-Henry County Chamber of Commerce at (731) 642-3431 or by contacting Markin at 587-7333. For additional services offered by TSBDC, go to www.tsbdc.org.

Moon viewing event set

The Sharon Public Library and Dr. Lionel Crews, from UT Martin, will host a “Moon Viewing” event Friday at 7 p.m. at the Sharon City Park. Everyone is invited to attend.
FORCUM LANNOM HONORED BY UT MARTIN — The University of Tennessee at Martin recently honored Forcum Lannom Contractors, LLC, of Dyersburg on its 100 successful years in business. The company received a plaque for its success during a luncheon, which also celebrated the campus/corporate partnership and the many university alumni who have become members of Forcum Lannom’s team. Presenting and receiving the plaque were (from left) Rich Helgeson, dean of UT Martin College of Engineering and Natural Sciences; Don Pennington, chairman emeritus, Forcum Lannom; J.B. Glass, president/CEO, Forcum Lannom; David Taylor, chairman, Forcum Lannom; and Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor.

Photo courtesy of University Relations

Students receive UT Martin scholarships

Two Weakley County students have been awarded scholarships for the 2011-12 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to Judy Rayburn, director of admissions.

- Lisa Baskette, of Dresden, wife of Takis Baskette, is a freshman. She received the Cayce L. Pentecost University Scholar Scholarship.

- Elizabeth Bukeavich, daughter of Dr. Peter and Lisa Bukeavich of Martin, is a freshman. She received the UTM Alumni Legacy Scholarship and the Clayton Arnold Teacher Training Scholarship.

Additional information on scholarships and other types of financial assistance is available by contacting UT Martin Office of Student Financial Assistance, 205 Administration Building, UT Martin, Martin, TN 38238.

In-state residents telephone 800-829-UTM1; out-of-state residents should call (731) 881-7040.
Pulitzer Prize winner bringing message to Northwest Tennessee

Glenda Caudle
Special to The Press

It is truly bad form to begin a story about someone else with a reference to yourself.

It just isn’t done. Particularly when the person you are writing about is a Pulitzer Prize winner whose expertise with the written word is undisputed in newsrooms and publishing houses across the country. Especially when that person will be a guest in your home town and might conceivably, at some point, read what you have written about him.

But I am breaking all the rules and telling you, up front, that when my computer screen revealed an email from Rick Bragg — son of the good red earth in Possum Trot, Ala., and a master wordsmith willing to make himself available for an interview — I hugged myself and whooped for joy.

Simply put, this poet who writes in prose makes me eternally grateful Mrs. Addie Lou Harper taught me to read. He speaks with the voice of people I’ve known all my life, because he’s known the same people. He tells their stories in a flow and rhythm that is so close to music my hands and feet will scarcely stay still.

He stirs up songs in my heart.

Bragg teaches writing at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. He will be the speaker at the Feb. 3 Union City Rotary Club Distinguished Speaker banquet. He will also visit the University of Tennessee at Martin, where he will be the speaker for the Meek Library Lecture at 7 p.m. Feb. 2 at Watkins Auditorium.

Although he began his career and earned his prizes as a newspaper man, it is his books that have made folks want to invite him over for Sunday dinner, just for the joy of hearing him orchestrate more tales.

He honored his family’s stories in “All Over but the Shoutin’,” “Ava’s Man” and “The Prince of Frogtown.” He made sure others had their own voice in “I Am a Soldier Too,” “Somebody Told Me: The Newspaper Stories of Rick Bragg” and “The Most They Ever Had.”

Two more books are working their way through his heart and brain these days.

Beginning his career as a sports writer at the Jackson-ville News in Alabama, Bragg went on to scribe for newspapers from one coast to the other. He lived and worked in Los Angeles and New York, in Boston and Miami and points in between.

He earned his reputation by telling the hard stories. Not the sterile number of executions committed in war-torn Haiti or the estimator-reckoned cost per square foot of destruction visited by a tornado on Goshen Church in Piedmont, Ala., the town where he was born.

Bragg took his readers, instead, to a hell-hole that didn’t have to be in the Caribbean, where “little girls with dead eyes hold your hands and whisper about fathers who were shot in the back of the head by grinning soldiers.”

He held the pen steady while a grieving mother who had seen the life sucked from her 4-year-old by a whirlwind wrote about faith that stared prostrating grief in the face but refused to bow down.

He knew devastation and destruction inside and out. Or so he thought.

He lived for the business of recording their human toll. Or so it seemed.

“I wrote about Haiti and disaster and bombings … and

NOT ONE TO ‘BRAGG’ – Pulitzer Prize-winning author Rick Bragg will visit Northwest Tennessee Feb. 2-3, when he will be a guest speaker at the Union City Rotary Club banquet as well as the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin. Photo courtesy of Zachary Riggins, University Relations, University of Alabama

it’s important to write about loss and not in clichés, but the truth is, you think you know half-way what you are doing while you are doing it, but when you look back … well, I’m honored to have gotten to do it, but I don’t want to anymore.”

It’s a positively-positioned sentiment, but circumstances shade his commitment to it.
"Now I want to write about going to New Orleans and finding the perfect po-boy. I don’t want to write sad any-
more, but when Katrina drowned New Orleans, I wanted
to write something. When British Petroleum fouled the
Gulf and threatened one of the most beautiful places I’ve
ever known, I wanted to write a love story about the Gulf
and shake my fist at BP. When a tornado came through
Tuscaloosa, I wanted to write about my neighborhood and
the guy who went up on my roof and tapped down shingles,
just because he said they looked a little loose. I guess
you’ll always write about those things.”

The other thing Rick Bragg writes about with intimate
intensity is family.

“The stories that originate in my mama’s living room are
the happiest,” he says.
The truth is, though, some of the saddest stories were
borne there, too.

He flips a coin to determine which ones to record, only
to have it come down balanced precariously on it edge.
There is clearly no choice for an honest man, then, but to
tell them both.

So he introduces people to his mama. His brothers. His
grandparents. His aunts. His uncles. His cousins.
And to his father.

It is not always — not anywhere close to always, not
nearly enough near to always — a pretty picture. Viewed
from a certain perspective, therefore, it is the perfect story
for Rick Bragg to write.

He begins his family’s history in the middle, with the
narrative of his parents: Charles Bragg, a veteran of Korea
who couldn’t stop fighting his private war and too often
launched devastating offensives against his own kin; and
Margaret (Bundrum) Bragg, a teen-age beauty whose heart
continues so, even as the years and the fears have blurred
the finer external lines.

Marine Bragg had seen the dead “wave from the ditches in
Korea” where their ice-numbed bodies were held capti-

tive half in and half out of the frozen mud. That image
surely played some part in his future and so shaped the
lives of his family. The mother of that veteran’s children
— four boys, with one laid too quickly in an impossibly
small and unnamed grave — had practiced sacrificial liv-
ing for the sake of her sons. She lent her sadness to every
story her famous boy wrote. But more importantly, she of-
ered that second-born a precious gift. “Of all the lessons
my mother tried to teach me, the most important was that
every life deserves a certain amount of dignity, no matter
how poor or damaged the shell that carries it,” he wrote.

“All Over ...” is not all a sad book, although it chroni-
cles some sad stories. It is a hope-full book in that it cap-
tures a fineness of spirit, a courageousness of heart and a
commitment to the things that truly matter and so make the
sad times bearable.

It came to be written because Ava Bundrum, Bragg’s
maternal grandmother, died.

Ava’s own story has her sharing billing with her man,
Charlie, in the second book of the trilogy. They were “peo-
ple of the pines” in northeast Alabama, given to music and
some whiskey making on the side and a firm grip on fam-
ily.

The final volume comes forward again and lays hold on
Frogtown’s Prince, Charles Bragg, once more. This time
the approach is, if not gentler, more generous.

Bragg will, most likely, make reference to all of these
and more when he visits this area for three speaking en-
gagements in February. Added to the two visits to Union
City will be time spent at the University of Tennessee at
Martin.

But it is his first book that students will be reading be-
tween now and then and that adults will be poring over
first, have they not already done so.

And even if “All Over ...” is already a treasured chapter
in their reading history, it is a safe bet it will be revisited
between now and then. The story line may be so familiar
it needs no repetition. But the melody that moves it along
— soft as an Alabama May midnight in some places and
jagged as Louisiana cracked oyster shells in others — begs
to be heard over and over.

“One of the best men I have ever known told me once
that to tell a story right you have to lean the words against
each other so that they don’t all fall down,” Bragg says in
his first book.

All of his remain upright.
And dancing.

Editor’s note: Glenda Caudle is special features editor
at The Messenger in Union City. She may be contacted at
glendacaudle@ucmessenger.com

DRESDEN ENTERPRISE, Dresden, Tennessee,
Vanguard returns with ‘Comedy of Errors’

Two sets of infant twins have been separated in an unfortunate shipwreck and will test their stories on the Vanguard stage in William Shakespeare’s “The Comedy of Errors,” Thursday-Sunday, November 10-13. The evening performances begin at 8:00 p.m. and the Sunday matinee begins at 3:00 p.m. Two additional matinees will be offered for local school groups. All performances will be held in the Student Life center on the UT Martin campus.

Shakespeare’s comedy tells the story of Antipholus and Dromio of Syracuse who are unexpectedly reunited with Antipholus and Dromio of Ephesus, 18 years after being separated from their respective siblings in a terrible storm. Confusion prevails as everyone, including the twins themselves, get mixed up. A series of mishaps leads to accusations of infidelity, theft and madness, as well as wrongful beatings, arrests and demonic possessions.

Playing the two master twins (Antipholus of Syracuse and Antipholus of Ephesus) are Reuben Kendall, a senior biology major from Troy, and Jonathan Fisher, a freshman communications major from Dyer. Playing the set of servant twins (Dromio of Syracuse and Dromio of Ephesus) are Casey Williams, a freshman theatre major from Cunningham, and Coleen Hunt, a junior theatre major from Pinson.

Tickets are available in advance and at the door. Adult tickets are $10 and UTM students and children are $5.00.

For more information or to reserve a ticket, contact the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts at 731-881-7400.

Community members invited to clarinet and saxophone showcase

Members of the Weakley County community are invited to a concert presented by the students of Dr. Amy Simmons, associate professor of music at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The concert will include the clarinet choir, the saxophone choir, the sax trio and the clarinet quartet, as well as other single reed chamber music and soloists. Students will also perform the world premier of a composition by Josh Spaulding, UTM percussion student.

The performance is scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m., November 13, at the Trinity Presbyterian Church in Martin. The church is located at 145 Hannings Lane. There is no charge for admission, but seating is limited.
Applications to participate in WestStar Leadership Development Program being accepted

Applications to participate in the largest and oldest regional leadership development program in Tennessee are now available from WestStar, which serves the 21 counties of West Tennessee and is operated by the University of Tennessee at Martin.

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Last year’s graduating class brought the total number of alumni to 617.

Weakley County WestStar Alumni include - David Belote, Tommy Boroughs, Joe Brasher, Jason Brigance, Jerry Brigance, Andrew Brown, Randy Brundige, John Bucy, Tommy Cates, John Clark, Phil Dane, George Daniel, Charley Deal, Marvin Flatt, Bobby German, Suzie German, Bobby Goode, Melinda Goode, Bud Grimes, Jacky Gullett, Brian Harris, Leslie Haywood-Moore, Hollie Holt, Steve Holt, Andrea Hughes, Loretta Insoe, George Jennings, Sam Lewallen Jr., Stacey Lockhart, David Moore, Jerald Ogg, Andy Page, Tom Payne, Dick Phebus, Jim Pritchett, Madelyn Pritchett, Audrey Roberts, John Salmon, Tom Seratt II, Suezane Speight, Ray Stevenson, Dennis Sweir, Jeanna Swofford, Lisha Tuck, Steve Vantrease, Barbara Virgin, and Walter Ward.

Dedication honors Airees

Dr. S.K. Airee, professor of chemistry and physics at the University of Tennessee at Martin, and his wife, Shashi, were honored with a bench and lamp post dedication on Saturday, October 8, as part of the UT Martin homecoming festivities. The Airees’ commitment to education led to the creation of the S.K. and Shashi Airee Endowment, a scholarship awarded to a chemistry student each year. Dr. Airee is pictured with his wife and three children, Richa, of Huntsville, Alabama, Hans, of Durham, North Carolina, and Anita, of Knoxville; who created the endowment.
University piano ensemble to display talent

The University of Tennessee at Martin piano ensemble concert is not a typical recital. The concert, scheduled for 7:30 p.m., November 8, at the Trinity Presbyterian Church in Martin, will feature a variety of selections for both four and eight hands.

A piece arranged for four hands requires two pianists, while a piece arranged for eight hands requires four pianists. Performers may play individual pianos or pair up to play the same instrument simultaneously.

A feature of the program is Mack Wilberg's "Fantasy on Themes from Carmen," arranged for eight hands on two pianos. The ensemble will also perform Carl Maria von Weber's "Six Pieces," Op. 10, a piano duet arranged for four hands on a single piano; and the final movement of Poulenc's Sonata for piano duo, arranged for four hands on two pianos.

Four faculty pianists will appear as special guests for the evening, performing John Philip Sousa's "The Stars and Stripes Forever," also arranged by Wilberg for eight hands.

UTM students performing include Andrew Moore, of South Fulton; Harold Johnson, of Memphis; Victoria Russell, of Cordova; Kelsey Currie, of Brownsville; Serena Chen, of Taiwan; and Rachel Steiner, of Murfreesboro. UTM faculty quartet members are Dr. Jonathan Vest, Dr. Scott Roberts, Dr. Elaine Harriss and Delana Easley.

The UTM piano ensemble is under the direction of Dr. Harriss, professor and Department of Music chair.

The concert is free and open to the public.

Rotaract collects 7,000 cans for We Care

The University of Tennessee at Martin Rotaract Club held its annual canned food drive and sculpture contest on Saturday, October 8, during UT Martin's homecoming Quad City event.

Twenty-three student organizations and various individual donors collected over 7,000 canned food items and constructed can sculptures displayed in the Quad. The canned food donations were given to We Care Ministries in Martin.

In the Non-Greek category, the Leaders in Residence class was awarded first place. Sigma Alpha placed second and Phi Eta Sigma came in third. In the Greek category, Alpha Delta Pi took first place, Alpha Omicron Pi followed with second and Chi Omega placed third. Chi Omega was the winner of the Most Cans Overall award with 1,382 cans. The American Chemical Society won the Most Creative Overall award.

Rotaract is a service club for young men and women ages 18 to 30. The UT Martin Rotaract chapter is sponsored by the Martin Rotary Club.
University Percussion to present world premier

The world has never heard "Streaming," a percussion piece by Michael Burritt, but the University of Tennessee at Martin percussion ensemble is about to change that. The ensemble's fall concert, featuring guest artist Keith Aleo, will begin at 3:00 p.m., November 6, in room 112 of the Boling University Center on the UT Martin campus.

Aleo, a Zildjian Cymbal representative from Boston University, will be the featured soloist in the Burritt piece. Matthew Stratton, assistant professor of tuba and euphonium, will be featured in a concerto for tuba and percussion ensemble. The ensemble will also perform a bombastic work in the style of Led Zeppelin drummer John Bonham, which will feature Daniel Houston, senior percussion major, on the drum set. Attendees will hear a variety of additional selections, including "Shifty" by Dennis DeSantis and "The Creation" by Cayenne Ponchione.

The concert is free and open to the public. Seating is limited.

CNN executive to speak at UTM

Mark Whitaker, executive vice president and managing editor of CNN Worldwide, will present a lecture, "My Long Trip Home," at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 16 at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

His presentation will be held in Watkins Auditorium of the Boling University Center on campus.

Whitaker is responsible for leading editorial coverage across CNN's multiple platforms and directing the overall approach, tone and scope of CNN's reporting.

Before joining CNN in February 2011, he served as senior vice president and Washington bureau chief for NBC News, where he was responsible for Washington-based programming for NBC and MSNBC, including "Meet the Press" and the network's political coverage.

He also served as the editor of Newsweek from 1998-2006. During his tenure, the magazine won more top editorial awards and nominations than at any time in its history, including four National Magazine Awards for coverage of such prominent events as the attacks of September 11, the Iraq War and the Monica Lewinsky scandal.

Whitaker graduated summa cum laude from Harvard in 1979, where he served on the editorial board for the "Harvard Crimson." He then attended Oxford University's Balliol College as a Marshall Scholar from 1979-81.

"The honors program at UT Martin is excited to have Mark Whitaker as part of our annual Academic Speakers Program," said Lionel Crews, director of Honors Programs. "His level of experience will provide unparalleled insight for students, staff and guests of the university."

Whitaker's presentation is co-sponsored by Student Affairs. The lecture is free and open to the public.
The University of Tennessee at Martin piano ensemble concert is not a typical recital. The concert, scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Martin, will feature a variety of selections for both four and eight hands.

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Faculty quartet members are Dr. Johnathan Vest, Dr. Scott Roberts, Dr. Elaine Harriss and Delana Easley. The piano ensemble is under the direction of Dr. Harriss, professor and Department of Music chair.

The concert is free and open to the public.

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Two Obion County students have been awarded scholarships for the 2011-12 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Madaline Harris, daughter of Rickie and Tammy Harris of Rives, is a senior who received the Raymond and Maxine Bratcher Scholarship and the Dr. Robert G. and Elizabeth Latimer Scholarship.

Ben Woods of Union City, son of Susan Woods and Luke and Pam Woods, is a senior who received the Robert "Pete" Vawter Scholarship.

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DYERSBURG RESIDENT HEARS UT PRESIDENT: John Cloar (right) of Dyersburg, a UT Martin graduate, was on the university's campus Oct. 11 as UT President Joe DiPietro addressed community leaders and elected officials in the Boling University Center. Following the presentation, Cloar met with others in attendance, including (left to right) Cathy Dunagan, wife of Dr. Nick Dunagan, UT Martin chancellor emeritus, and Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor.
GREENFIELD GOES GREEN – UTM Recycles! set up a recyclables drop-off trailer within the City of Greenfield to benefit residents. The trailer will be set up Oct. 25. The City of Greenfield will haul the trailer to the UTM Recycles! facility in Martin when necessary. This is a trial basis. Recyclables accepted in the trailer include paper, plastic, metal, cardboard and aluminum. A UTM Recycles! spokesperson said the goal of these outreach projects is to build stronger relations with the community and sustainability is a great thing to do and teach the next generation about. On hand for the trailer set-up were (from left) Greenfield city recorder Randy Potts; public works director Tony Stout; Fire Chief Bob Dudley; alderman Danny Nanney and alderwoman Cindy McAdams. The trailer can be seen from the highway and it is located by the water tower.

WestStar applicants sought

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Participants learn new leadership skills and develop strategies for assisting communities in solving problems and maximizing potential. Participants also become part of a growing network of other leaders who, through mutual support and assistance, shape the future of West Tennessee.

The program begins Jan. 5. Last year’s graduating class brought the total number of alumni to 617.

Empty Bowls Supper is Nov. 17

The Interfaith Center is planning its annual Empty Bowls Soup Supper to raise money to donate to the We Care Food Pantry to fight hunger in Weakley County. They serve soup to the community for donations. This event will be Nov. 17 at 5:30 p.m. at the Interfaith Center.

To donate soup for this night, call WE CARE at 587-6257 for details. This would be a great night to take the family out to eat for a delicious soup meal and to know that the money will be used to help purchase food for the food bank. The food bank has served 1,955 families since January.

Nov. 15

University artwork display

The works of Clint Mealer, of Greenfield, and Kayla Turner, of Camden, will be featured in a senior art exhibition scheduled to begin with an opening reception from 5-7 p.m. The display will continue through Dec. 2 on the second floor of the Paul Meek Library on the University of Tennessee at Martin campus.

Mealer and Turner are both pursuing Bachelor of Fine Arts degrees, with emphasis in visual art studio. The exhibition is free and open to the public during regular library hours.

For more information, contact the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts at 881-7400.

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For more information, contact the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts at 881-7400.
WestStar applications due Nov. 16

Applications to participate in WestStar, a regional leadership development program, will be accepted through Nov. 16. Classes will begin Jan. 5.

Those wishing to apply for the class should contact WestStar at 731-881-7298 or online at www.utm.edu.

Anyone can apply to participate in the WestStar program. Nominations are accepted but not required. Class members will be competitively selected to participate in the 2012 program.

The WestStar program consists of eight specially designed seminar programs addressing contemporary major issues important to the development of West Tennessee.

Each of the eight seminars will last one day and a half.

There will be a graduation program in June.

The mission of the WestStar program, which is operated by the University of Tennessee at Martin, is to identify, encourage and equip community-minded people who want to become more involved in their communities.

Applicants should want to help West Tennessee become a better place and be willing to accept assertive and dynamic leadership roles.

Participants will learn new leadership skills and develop strategies for assisting communities in solving problems and maximizing potential.

Participants also become part of a growing network of other leaders who, through mutual support and assistance, shape the future of West Tennessee.

Henry Countians who have taken part in the WestStar program include: Chip Anderson, Mark Chandler, Tommy Cooper, Tom Cunningham, John Etheridge, Tom Gee, Barbara Gray, Brent Greer, Mary Hickman, Bryan Irby, Virigina Johnson, Tony Lawrence, Mary Lodge, Gary McEntire, Connie McSwain, Brenda Morris, Jennifer Morris, Charles Perry, Sally Peterson, Larry Ray, Mary Kate Ridgeway, Jack Tarkington, Galia Thompson-Greer, Jennifer Wheatley, Mike Wilson, Terry Wimberley and Ramay Winchester.

The vision of WestStar is to become the premier leadership program in the United States and to establish an elite group of people bonded by their commitment to realizing the educational, economic and social development of West Tennessee.

The Weakley County Press

Thursday, November 3, 2011

Clarinet and saxophone showcase on agenda

Members of the Martin community are invited to a concert presented by the students of Dr. Amy Simmons, associate professor of music at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Students will perform the world premier of a composition by Josh Spaulding, UTM percussion student.

The performance is scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 13 at the Trinity Presbyterian Church in Martin.

The church is located at 145 Hanning Lane.

There is no charge for admission, but seating is limited.

For more information, contact Simmons at 881-7413.

The Messenger, Union City, Tennessee, Monday, November 7, 2011

Loan expo scheduled at UTM

Borrego Springs Bank, N.A., a proven nationwide lender under the U.S. Small Business Administration's Preferred Lender Program, will conduct a free loan expo on the Borrego Express Capital Loan Program, Patriot Express Loan Program and the new Export Express Loan Program from 4-6 p.m. Nov. 15 at the University of Tennessee at Martin’s REED Center.

Borrego Springs Bank, N.A., offers working capital term loans from $5,000-$100,000 for both start-up and existing small businesses.

Those considering new business ventures or who need additional working capital for an existing business are encouraged to attend.

The REED Center is located at 406 South Lindell St., Martin. For more information or to register, contact the REED Center at (731) 587-7333 or online at www.utm.edu/reed.
Consultations
Erik Markin, who gives small business consultations, will be in Paris from 1-4:30 p.m. Thursday at the Paris-Henry County Chamber of Commerce office, 2508 E. Wood St. in Paris.
Those interested in a consultation should make an appointment by calling Markin at 731-587-7333 or the chamber office at 642-3431.

MARTIN - High school students interested in attending the University of Tennessee at Martin are invited to register for the semester's second Fall Preview Day, scheduled for November 19. Faculty and staff will be available to answer questions about academic programs, financial aid, scholarships, housing and student life. Registration will begin at 9 a.m. and all events will be held in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.
For more information, contact the Office of Admissions at 731-881-7020 or register online at http://www.utm.edu/departments/eeces/nondegree/home.php.

Floral Arrangement Course Offered in Time for the Holidays
MARTIN - Christmas wreaths and holiday centerpieces will be quick and easy for those who complete a floral arrangement course offered by the University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies. The one-night course is scheduled for 6:30-8:30 p.m., November 15, on the UT Martin campus.
The course will focus on the creation of Christmas wreaths and participants will leave with a completed project to use at home or give as a gift. Lauren Armbruster will instruct the class, exploring basic concepts and techniques of floral arrangement while helping students develop personal flair and creativity. Armbruster will also cover flower placement, as well as the needed materials and how to use them.
Registration is $45 plus a fee for supplies, payable to the instructor on the night of the class. The supply fee is $30-$40, which includes a Christmas wreath, silk flowers, berries or filler, glue, wire, lights (optional-$3), ribbon (optional-$5) and any other materials needed.
To register for the course, contact ECOS at 731-881-7020 or register online at http://www.utm.edu/departments/ece/nondegree/home.php.

Honors Preview Day
MARTIN - Tiffany Jenks, a senior at McKenzie High School, and her mother, Tracy Jenks, attended the UT Martin Honors Preview Day October 29, at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Students and family members attending the event toured the campus and learned about the university's Honors Programs. The event closed with an address by UT Martin graduate, Jennifer Horbelt, evening news anchor for WPSD Local 6 in Paducah, Kentucky.
UTM prepares for first NCAA appearance

Will play road match at No. 4 seed Memphis

By Craig Thomas
cthomas2@jacksonsun.com

MARTIN — With his team on its way to the NCAA tournament for the first time, coach Phil McNamara anticipates a fun week for his players. The fun began Monday afternoon as his team watched the NCAA Tournament Selection Show.

The Skyhawks will face No. 4 Memphis, ranked nationally.

McNamara said he was very excited to have the tournament come so close to home.

"The pressure's on Memphis," McNamara said. "We can go in there and think and just enjoy the experience."

McNamara said he anticipates a good crowd of UTM supporters at Saturday's match. Forwards Kendyl Wilson, Abi Sanvee and Camilla Buoni are from the Memphis area.

At Monday's press conference, UTM displayed its OVC Tournament championship trophy.

"It was a really difficult week," McNamara said. "We were facing two teams last week that we had lost to in the regular season (Eastern Kentucky and Morehead State), so we knew it was going to be difficult. But the girls really came together at the right time."

Some strategic adjustments paid off for UTM in the OVC tournament. Down 1-0 to Morehead State in the championship match, McNamara substituted an extra forward in place of a defender for the second half to create more offensive opportunities.

"It was a gamble, but we worked the same magic earlier in the tournament and I think the girls had a little comfort zone from the (semifinal) game Thursday against (Eastern Illinois)," McNamara said. "I knew we had success in that formation, so thankfully it worked twice in the same tournament."

The Skyhawks struggled somewhat early in the season, winning only five of their first 10 matches.

"The girls weren't quite playing to their full potential. We had a lot of opportunities, and we just weren't finishing them," McNamara said. "I think we found our finishing touch in the (conference) tournament and thankfully we reached our full potential."

He named senior midfielders Melissa Govea and Brooke Robertson as two of the team's leaders throughout the season. Govea and

Freshman Lucy Pater scored the Skyhawks' two goals in the championship match. The team consists largely of freshmen and sophomores.

McNamara, in his second year as head coach, guided the Skyhawks to their winningest season in school history. The current squad has won six straight matches. That's the longest winning streak ever for the UTM soccer program, which began in 1998.

He mentioned the long term benefit of the OVC title and NCAA trip for the program's development.

"We're excited that we've won the tournament," McNamara said. "We're hoping that's going to be contagious for these girls with their work ethic for the future. And that'll help attract better players to come here to UT Martin and strengthen the program in the future."

— Craig Thomas, 425-9634

continued from page B1

seed Memphis at 8 p.m. Saturday. The game will take place at Memphis' Mike Rose Soccer Complex. The winner will face the Dayton-Louisville winner Nov. 18.

UTM received an automatic bid with its Ohio Valley Conference tournament title over the weekend. The Skyhawks (14-6-2) beat Morehead State in Sunday's final, 2-1.

Memphis (21-0-2) is ranked fourth nationally. The Lady Tigers beat UTEP 2-1 in double-overtime to capture the Conference USA championship. They have given up just six goals in the last month.

"I believe they play a 3-4-3 (formation), which tells me they're very athletic," McNamara said. "That'll bring a lot of pressure upon us for sure."

As an unseeded team, UTM won't be expected to make a deep run but hopes for a good performance.

"The pressure's on Memphis," McNamara said. "We know they're very athletic, and we're going to try to match them."

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CNN editor is guest speaker at UTM

Mark Whitaker, executive vice president and managing editor of CNN Worldwide, will present a lecture titled “My Long Trip Home” at 7:30 on Nov. 16.

His presentation will be in Watkins Auditorium of the Boling University Center on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Whitaker is responsible for leading editorial coverage across CNN’s multiple platforms and directing the overall approach, tone and scope of CNN’s reporting.

Before joining CNN in February 2011, he served as senior vice president and Washington bureau chief for NBC News, where he was responsible for Washington-based programming for NBC and MSNBC, including “Meet the Press” and the network's political coverage.

He also served as the editor of Newsweek from 1998-2006.

During his tenure, the magazine won more top editorial awards and nominations than at any time in its history, including four National Magazine Awards for coverage of such prominent events as the attacks of Sept. 11, the Iraq War, and the Monica Lewinsky scandal.

Whitaker graduated summa cum laude from Harvard in 1979, where he served on the editorial board for the “Harvard Crimson.” He then attended Oxford University’s Balliol College as a Marshall Scholar from 1979-81.

“The honors program at UT Martin is excited to have Mark Whitaker as part of our annual Academic Speakers Program,” said Lionel Crews, director of Honors Programs.

Featured faculty scholar named

Each semester, the University of Tennessee at Martin recognizes outstanding faculty for excellence in teaching and scholarship.

Lane Last, professor of art, was recently named the Featured Faculty Scholar for Fall 2012 during a ceremony on Nov. 2.

“It isn't often that we get to honor artists,” said Dr. Lynn Alexander, dean of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts, during the award presentation.

“Just in the last three years Lane has participated in exhibits, or shows or meetings in 12 countries, and this is the kind of international reputation he's been able to build and it's so exciting to have someone like this at UTM.”

“Lane does everything that I ask of a faculty member well, and that's worth a lot to me,” added Doug Cook, chair of the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts. Addressing the audience, Last thanked his family and friends for their support and Cook for his friendship and being a good boss.

Lane also thanked his mentor in graduate school, George Cramer, for his guidance.

“He [Cramer] gave me the advice, 'Get to a public university so you can have the freedom to find out who you are,'” Last said.

Lane grew up in Freeport, Ill., and earned a Master’s of Fine Arts Degree and Bachelor’s Degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, with primary concentrations in painting, digital art, video and new media. He also attended Southern Illinois University and Los Angeles Valley College.

Last joined the faculty at UT Martin in 1999 as an assistant professor. He was promoted to associate professor in 2005 and to professor in 2010.

He previously taught at Mt. Senario College in Ladsmitth, Wis. as an assistant professor and Highland Community College in Freeport, Ill. as an instructor.

Last is a member of many professional societies and organizations including the Arts Co-Op in Martin, Nashville’s Tennesseans for the Arts and Art and Science Collaborations, Inc. of New York.

His artwork can be found in public and private collections across the U.S., Korea, Italy and Japan. A sample of his work is now on display in the Paul Meek Library on the UT Martin campus.

“His level of experience will provide unparalleled insight for students, staff and guests of the university.”

Whitaker’s presentation is co-sponsored by Student Affairs. The lecture is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Dr. Crews at 881-7436, or by email at lcrew@ut.utm.edu.

AAUW to meet

American Association of University Women will welcome visitors to the Thursday meeting at Weldon Library downtown Martin at 6 p.m. AAUW promotes education and equity for all women and girls. Enjoy a supper provided by members followed by a program on “The People and Wonders of the Amazon” given by Dr. Sue Byrd, UTM professor of Family and Consumer Sciences. Membership is open to university women graduates and students. Contact Robin Last at rclast@yahoo.com or 446-3530 or Janice Hanna at jhanna@ut.utm.edu.
LAST NAMED FEATURED FACULTY SCHOLAR - UT Martin art professor Lane Last was recently named Featured Faculty Scholar for Fall 2012. Gathered are (from left) Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, Jerald Ogg; Last; Visual and Theatre Arts Chair, Doug Cook; and Dean of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts, Lynn Alexander. Photo submitted

Students awarded scholarships

Two Weakley County students have been awarded scholarships for the 2011-12 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to Judy Rayburn, director of admissions.

- Katie McCall, daughter of Bill and Teresa McCall of Greenfield, is a sophomore. She received the Nadinne Gearin Scholarship, the Skyhawk Women's Varsity Athletics Scholarship and the Women's Tennis Scholarship for books.

- Jesi Ogg, daughter of Sammy and Cheryl Ogg of Martin, is a freshman. She received the Fred and Marie Colvett Agriculture Scholarship.

Additional information on scholarships and other types of financial assistance is available by contacting UT Martin Office of Student Financial Assistance, 205 Administration Building, UT Martin, Martin, Tenn. 38238. In-state residents telephone 800-829-UTM1; out-of-state residents should call 881-7040.

UTM to host preview day

High school students interested in attending the University of Tennessee at Martin are invited to register for the semester's second Fall Preview Day, scheduled for Nov. 19.

Faculty and staff will be available to answer questions about academic programs, financial aid, scholarships, housing and student life.

Registration will begin at 9 a.m. and all events will be held in the Kathleen and Toim Elam Center. Event times are as follows:

- 9:30-10:30 a.m. - Welcome and Information Session
- 10:30-11:15 a.m. - Academic Fair
- 11:15 a.m.-noon - Academic Department Visit
- Noon-1:30 p.m. - Campus Tour

For more information, contact the Office of Admissions at 881-7020 or register online at www.utm.edu.
CARING FOR THE TROOPS – Rolling Thunder® TN- Chapter 6 recently joined with the UT Martin Phi Sigma Kappa fraternity in support of a care package for the troops. The drive was the brain child of Josh Ivy (center), who is not only a Phi Sig pledge, but a soldier who served in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Ivy is shown with his fiance Nikki Pendleton and their two-year-old son Tielor. The fraternity will set up at Walmart in Martin Friday and Saturday collecting care package items. Donations can also be dropped off at any fraternity or sorority house of your choice on campus or bring items to the Weakley County Press on Lindell Street in downtown Martin. The packages will ship Dec. 1.

Martin man to receive service award

Freed-Hardeman University will honor a Martin man Nov. 11 during the Henderson school’s Homecoming celebration. Brian Stephens will receive the Service to Community Award at the Homecoming banquet Friday.

Stephens, who graduated from FHU in 1993, is the campus minister at the University of Tennessee Martin. He has worked with the Martin Church of Christ for more than ten years and led mission trips to various places, including Costa Rica. In addition to his work as campus minister, he teaches two Bible classes weekly and preaches at least once each month. He is married to the former Joy Holloway.

Nathan Howard, associate professor of history at UTM said regarding Stephens, “Instead of challenging students only to find a safe haven in the community of other Christians, he encourages and enables them to reach out to others by helping them to experience Christ’s presence in their lives.

For additional information on Homecoming at FHU, see www.fhu.edu/homecoming.
UT President speaks at UT Martin

Joe DiPietro

A major component of the future of UT Martin and UT System will be strategic planning, University of Tennessee President Joe DiPietro, noted during his address to campus, regional and state officials at UT Martin’s Boling University Center on October 11.

"It’s probably the most important thing we’ll do this first year that I’m in office," DiPietro said.

Strategic planning, he explained, is an organized approach to taking advantage of key opportunities and trajectories that will benefit and advance UT system schools and the system as a whole. Planning groups are currently preparing to deliver proposals to the UT Board of Trustees in June.

"So what it will do, is it will map out where we’re going, be a road map for the next six to ten years," DiPietro said. "It will tell us how we’re going to get there, but it will talk about resources that are needed to employ the plan as well ... and it will keep an eye on outcomes that will measure and make sure we are advancing the plan. The process will be very engaged."

Each UT system school has a specifically developed strategic plan that works to build on and enhance the strengths of each campus and institute. A broader integrated plan works to strengthen all UT schools collectively. UT Martin’s strategic plan involves expanding dual enrollment credit offerings, increasing campus outreach activities and establishing goals to maximize resources, among others.

DiPietro also emphasized the importance of keeping strategic plans flexible.

"It needs to ... be something that we use to make decisions but realize that we need to have it be dynamic enough that we can make changes in directions as they’re needed, as opposed to being boxed in the next five years," he said. "Other problems may come along that we just have to be flexible and adaptive."

Directing his message toward state officials in attendance, DiPietro commended the Complete College Tennessee Act, which was passed by Tennessee legislators in 2010 and implemented in 2011.

"We very, very much support the Complete College Act, because its primary goals are all around completion, from the standpoint of how you all want funding for undergraduate programs and producing more graduates per unit and time."

In closing, DiPietro made a point to acknowledge UT Martin’s vital role in the UT college system. UT Martin’s ability to broadly reach out to the western part of the state with education centers in Ripley, Parsons, Selmer and Jackson, he said, and the WestStar Leadership Development program, which has trained more than 600 West Tennesseans, are credible strengths.

"The ability of Martin to regionally serve people and be connected to the University of Tennessee is powerful," DiPietro said. "There is no doubt that UT Martin is the 'crown jewel' of West Tennessee."

UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes welcomed DiPietro to campus and other attendees of the event, including State House representatives Bill Sanderson and Steve McDaniel.

DiPietro’s address was the first of two UT Martin appearances on Tuesday. He later traveled to Jackson to speak at the grand opening of the UT Martin Jackson Center.

Community members invited to attend University Jazz Concert

Members of the Martin community interested in big band and jazz music are encouraged to attend a performance by the University of Tennessee at Martin Big Band and Small Jazz Group. The concert will begin at 7:30 p.m., November 17, in the ballroom of the Boling University Center on the UT Martin campus.

The program will feature both classic swing and modern compositions, including works by Jazz greats Benny Carter, Charlie Parker, Stan Kenton and Charles Mingus.

The ensemble is under the direction of Dr. Kurt Gorman, associate professor of music at UT Martin.

The concert is free and open to the public.

University students to display artwork in senior exhibition

The works of Clint Mealer, of Greenfield, and Kayla Turner, of Camden, will be featured in a senior art exhibition scheduled to begin on November 15, with an opening reception from 5:00-7:00 p.m. The display will continue through December 2 on the second floor of the Paul Meek Library on the University of Tennessee at Martin campus.

Mealer and Turner are both pursuing Bachelors of Fine Arts degrees, with emphases in visual art studio.

The exhibition is free and open to the public during regular library hours.

For more information, contact the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts at 731-881-7400.
UT Martin art professor, Lane Last, was recently named Featured Faculty Scholar for Fall 2012. Pictured L to R, Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, Jerald Ogg; Last; Visual and Theatre Arts Chair, Doug Cook; and Dean of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts, Lynn Alexander.

Lane Last named Featured Faculty Scholar 2012

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"It isn't often that we get to honor artists," said Dr. Lynn Alexander, dean of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts, during the award presentation. "Just in the last three years Lane has participated in exhibits, or shows or meetings in 12 countries, and this is the kind of international reputation he's been able to build and it's so exciting to have someone like this at UTM."

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Addressing the audience, Last thanked his family and friends for their support and Cook for his friendship and being a good boss. Lane also thanked his mentor in graduate school, George Cramer, for his guidance.

"He [Cramer] gave me the advice, "Get to a public university so you can have the freedom to find out who you are,," Last said.

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UTM students create and design mobile apps

Engineering majors, (left to right), John Anderson, Ezra Nance and Jesse Clift are getting mobile app design experience from UT Martin courses, which produce 20-30 apps per year.

Engineering students at the University of Tennessee at Martin are breaking ground on mobile app design. Dr. Somsak Sukittanon, associate professor of engineering, said UT Martin students have made over 20 mobile applications now available for both Android and Apple products.

"Currently, students can produce 20-30 apps per year from the class assignments. We are trying to increase the number of downloads to 100,000 in the near future," Sukittanon said.

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The engineering students have designed the apps as part of class homework, final projects and senior design projects.

Senior Engineering major Jesse Clift, designed a ball-bouncing game that integrates physics theory on momentum to create realistic movement.

"Working on mobile apps is tremendously fun. When I received the assignment in class I wanted to make it perfect, because I know the whole world will be able to see it later. UTM has all the resources; the only thing that is going to limit what you can create is your imagination," Clift said.

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"It is nice to be involved with this effort. This UTM course has offered the experience that I expect to gain from a real-working job environment," Nance said.

Senior Engineering major Josh Potts focuses on Android applications. His apps have over 10,000 combined downloads.

"Mobile technology is the future. In my work I've found or created technology that is used for everything from education to home security," Potts said.

Other apps include, Prime Billion, made by Thomas Hunt. It helps find any prime number up to 1 billion. Blackjack and Craps make use of probability to create casino simulation games.

To download the apps, go to the store on iPhone/iPod/iPad and search the keywords, "University of Tennessee at Martin."
Executive Vice President of CNN Worldwide to speak November 16

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Whitaker’s presentation is sponsored by Student Affairs. The lecture is free and open to the public.

Weakley County students receive scholarships to attend UT Martin

Two Weakley County students have been awarded scholarships for the 2011-2012 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to Judy Rayburn, director of admissions.

Lisa Baskette, of Dresden, wife of Takis Baskette, is a freshman. She received the Cayce L. Pentecost University Scholar Scholarship; and Elizabeth Bukeavich, daughter of Dr. Peter and Lisa Bukeavich of Martin, is a freshman. She received the UTM Alumni Legacy Scholarship and the Clayton Arnold Teacher Training Scholarship.

Forcum Lannom honored by UT Martin

The University of Tennessee at Martin recently honored Forcum Lannom Contractors, LLC of Dyersburg on their 100 successful years in business. The company received a plaque for its success during a luncheon, which also celebrated the campus/corporate partnership and the many university alumni who have become members of Forcum Lannom’s team. Shown (left to right): Rich Helgeson, Dean, UT Martin College of Engineering and Natural Sciences; Don Pennington, Chairman Emeritus, Forcum Lannom; J.B. Glass, President/CEO, Forcum Lannom; David Taylor, Chairman, Forcum Lannom; and Tom Rakes, UT Martin Chancellor.
University Dance Ensemble presents ‘Magnified Distraction’

Nineteen of the University of Tennessee at Martin’s most talented dance students will present their fall dance ensemble showcase, “Magnified Distraction,” for the public at 8:00 p.m., November 16 and 17. The performance will be located in the dance studio on the third floor of the Elam Center on the UT Martin campus.

The ensemble will perform a total of twelve diverse works, ranging from contemporary to clogging to jazz. Eight choreographers, including six students, arranged this year’s showcase pieces. Sarah McCormick, assistant professor of dance and director of the ensemble, will present two new works together with guest artist Dalton Akins, who choreographed a clogging piece.

Student choreographers include Morgan Bowker, a junior from Dickson; Devin Hartidge, a senior from Denver, Colo.; Leah-Jean Graham, a junior from Dyersburg; Ashleigh Morrow, a sophomore from Nashville; Corey Smith, a freshman from Dyersburg; and Leslie William, a sophomore from Saulsbury, will also present original choreographed works.

Bowker, Hartidge, Graham, Morrow and Smith are all involved in the dance education program, and Howard is a dance minor.

Tickets will be available at the door. General admission is $5, student admission is $3 and children under 12 may enter free.

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University to host Fall Preview Day for high school students

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For more information, contact the Office of Admissions at 731-881-7020 or register online at www.utm.edu.

Local student attends Honors Preview Day

Regan Ward, a senior at Westview High School, and her mother, Janet Ward, attended the UT Martin Honors Preview Day, October 29, at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Students and family members attending the event toured the campus and learned about the university’s Honors Programs. The event closed with an address by UT Martin graduate, Jennifer Horbelt, evening news anchor for WPSD Local 6 in Paducah, Kentucky.
FORCUM LANNOM HONORED BY UT MARTIN: The University of Tennessee at Martin recently honored Forcum Lannom Contractors, LLC of Dyersburg on their 100 successful years in business. The company received a plaque for its success during a luncheon, which also celebrated the campus/corporate partnership and the many university alumni who have become members of Forcum Lannom's team. Pictured from left: Rich Helgeson, dean, UT Martin College of Engineering and Natural Sciences; Don Pennington, chairman emeritus, Forcum Lannom; J.B. Glass, president/CEO, Forcum Lannom; David Taylor, chairman, Forcum Lannom; and Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor.

Local Army vet to give Veterans Day speech

In honor of the nation's veterans, the University of Tennessee at Martin Non-Traditional Student Association will host guest speaker Ist Sgt. Christopher Cummings at noon Friday in Watkins Auditorium of Boling University Center. Born and raised in North Dakota, Cummings enlisted in the U.S. Army Military Police Corps in 1989. He was stationed in Germany during the collapse of the Berlin Wall and manned the historic Checkpoint Charlie.

In 1994, Cummings was sworn in as a police officer for the Union City Police Department, where he still works today as a criminal investigator.

He also enlisted in the Tennessee Army National Guard as a heavy equipment operator, serving out of the Union City armory.

In 2004, he completed the Army's paralegal school and was transferred to the 194th Engineer Brigade in Jackson. That same year, the unit was deployed to Iraq. In 2009, Cummings was promoted to sergeant first class just before another deployment to Iraq.

Friday's event at UT Martin is free and open to the public.

Tyler Tankersley, son of Shawn and Pam Tankersley of Union City, has been awarded a scholarship for the 2011-12 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin.

A freshman, he received the UTM McWhorter Scholarship/Workshop.
UTM students create mobile apps

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“It is nice to be involved with this effort. This UTM course has offered the experience that I expect to gain from a real-working job environment,” Nance said.

Senior engineering major Josh Potts focuses on Android applications. His apps have over 10,000 combined downloads.

“Mobile technology is the future. In my work I’ve found or created technology that is used for everything from education to home security,” Potts said.

Other apps include Prime Billion, made by Thomas Hunt. It helps find any prime number up to 1 billion. Blackjack and Craps make use of probability to create casino simulation games.

To download the apps, go to the store on iPhone/iPod/iPad and search the keywords, “University of Tennessee at Martin.”
IN APPRECIATION – Under auspices of an International Year of Chemistry grant project, the Student Members of the American Chemical Society (SMACS) of the University of Tennessee at Martin and the University Academic Speakers program co-hosted the medical/technical director, Dr. Albert Wiley, of the Radiation Emergency Assistance Center/Training Site (REAC/TS) at Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU) on Oct. 27. Student Members of the American Chemical Society presented Wiley with an IYC commemorative T-shirt and an appreciation plaque after his address. Lauren White (from left), Bethany Aden, Christy Lee, IYC project co-director Jhalak Patel, Kristin Brooks, Brandon Gindt, Wiley, Eric Bryuns, SMACS president Corey Jones, IYC project co-director Chelsea Peeler, Sam Moran, Amber Watson, Honors Programs director Dr. Lionel Crews, Heather Vascovsky, Sarah Maxey, Heather Streckert, Layla Gargus, Krishna Patel, Stepahny Gourley, and SMACS advisor Dr. S. K. Airee. Wiley, head of the World Health Organization Collaborating Center at Oak Ridge, presented a seminar to a large audience in Watkins Auditorium on the safety protocols of hazardous nuclear radiation incidents. He also conducted a workshop for honors students.

Empty bowls supper is set

The Interfaith Student Center is once again teaming up with local potter David McBeth for the ninth annual Empty Bowls Soup Supper.

The event, which is held each year to raise money for the food bank at We Care Ministries, will be held Nov. 17 from 5 to 7:30 p.m. at the Interfaith Student Center.

For a $10 donation, individuals can enjoy an all-you-can-eat soup supper and take home a pottery bowl handcrafted by UTM art professor David McBeth and some of his students.

A $5 donation is requested for those who wish to eat only, but UTM students can eat for free. All donations will go to help feed the hungry in Weakley County.

For more information, contact the Rev. Jolimine Balentine-Downey at 587-2603.

Friday

UT Martin
Veterans Day program

Noon in the Watkins Auditorium of the UT Martin campus

Special speaker will be Sgt. 1st class Chris Cummings (Acting First Sergeant, 913th Engineer Company).

The VFW will have a table set up with information for veterans and supporters. Co-sponsored by the Non-Traditional Student Association.
Cummings to speak at UTM today

In honor of the nation’s veterans, the University of Tennessee at Martin Non-Traditional Student Association will be hosting guest speaker, Ist Sgt. Christopher Cummings at noon today (Thursday) in Watkins Auditorium, Boling University Center.

Born and raised in North Dakota, Cummings enlisted in the U.S. Army Military Police Corps in 1989. He was stationed in Germany during the collapse of the Berlin Wall and manned the historic Checkpoint Charlie.

In 1994, Cummings was sworn in as a police officer for the Union City Police Department where he still works today as a criminal investigator.

He also enlisted in the Tennessee Army National Guard as a heavy equipment operator serving out of the Union City Armory.

In 2004, he completed the Army’s paralegal school and was transferred to the 194th Engineer Brigade in Jackson.

That same year the unit was deployed to Iraq.

In 2009, Cummings was promoted to sergeant first class just before another deployment to Iraq.

The event is free and open to the public.

UT Martin fine arts students take center stage in events

Music, dance and artwork will be featured in several upcoming events hosted by the University of Tennessee at Martin.

A concert will be presented Tuesday night by students of Dr. Amy Simmons, associate professor of music at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The performance is set to begin at 7:30 p.m. at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Martin, located at 145 Hannels Lane. There is no charge for admission, but seating is limited.

The concert will include the clarinet choir, saxophone choir, sax trio and clarinet quartet, as well as other single reed chamber music and soloists. Students will also perform the world premier of a composition by Josh Spaulding, UTM percussion student.

A chamber ensemble concert hosted by UTM’s Department of Music will begin at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in Watkins Auditorium of Boling University Center.

Several student groups, including a flute quartet, a brass quintet and a double reed trio and quartet, will perform a variety of musical selections. The concert is free and open to the public.

The works of Clint Mealer of Greenfield and Kayla Turner of Camden will be featured in a senior art exhibition scheduled to begin Tuesday, with an opening reception to be held from 5-7 p.m.

The display will continue through Dec. 2 on the second floor of the Paul Meek Library on the UTM campus. The exhibition is free and open to the public during regular library hours.

Nineteen of UTM’s most talented dance students will present their fall dance ensemble showcase, “Magnified Distraction,” at 8 p.m. Wednesday and Nov. 17 in the dance studio on the third floor of the Elam Center on campus.

The ensemble will perform a total of 12 diverse works, ranging from contemporary to clogging to jazz. Eight choreographers, including six students, arranged this year’s showcase pieces.

Sarah McCormick, assistant professor of dance and ensemble director, and guest artist Dalton Akins, who choreographed a clogging piece, will also present two new works together.

Tickets will be available at the door. General admission is $5, student admission is $3 and children younger than 12 may enter free.

A performance by the UTM Big Band and Small Jazz Group will be held 7:30 p.m. Nov. 17 in the ballroom of Boling University Center on campus.

The program will feature classic swing and modern compositions, including works by Jazz greats Benny Carter, Charlie Parker, Stan Kenton and Charles Mingus. The ensemble is under the direction of Dr. Kurt Gorman, associate professor of music at UTM.

The concert is free and open to the public.
“Impressions 2011,” Mayfield/Graves County Art Guild’s annual juried show, will be on display at the Ice House Gallery, located at 120 North Eighth St. in Mayfield, until Nov. 30.

This is the 20th year for the show, and it has been a popular show for artists of this region, a spokesman said.

Fifty-eight artists from Kentucky and Tennessee submitted more than 115 entries to be considered for this year’s show. Seventy-seven pieces were selected for the show by Dale Leys, professor of art at Murray State University.

Leys was especially impressed with the entries in the photography category and awarded the Best of Show to a photograph, a spokesman said.

Award winners included:
- The West Kentucky Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation’s Best of Show award was presented to Beckye Norton of Martin for her photograph, “Weathered.”
- Jason Stout of Martin won the John Cook Memorial Award for first place in drawing for “See You Later.”
- Second place drawing, sponsored by Dr. Donald and Carol Dowdy, went to David O. Carrico of Paris for “The Barn’s Last Legs.”
- Frederick Merida of Farmington, Ky., placed first in sculpture, for “Elysian,” sponsored by Mary Jackson-Haagen.
- Second place sculpture, sponsored by Mayberry Antiques, was awarded to John C. Moore of Mayfield for “Terrascape.”

Art winners — Mayfield/Graves County Art Guild in Kentucky recently named the winners of its annual juried show. They include (from left) Keith Thomas, Margaret Merida, Jenny Fuller, Carolyn Daniels, David O. Carrico, Frederick Merida, John C. Moore and Emily Parham, and (not pictured) Jason Stout, Cynthia Elder, H. Marie Dolchan and Joyce Keeling.

Ice House names art show winners

- The first place fiber/mixed media award, sponsored by Barbara Heath, went to Margaret Merida of Farmington for “Magentascape.”
- Second place fiber/mixed media, sponsored by Stones Drugs, went to Carolyn Daniels of Benton, Ky., for “Audubon Park.”
- First place in photography, sponsored by Mayfield Messenger Corporation, was awarded to Emily Parham of Mayfield for “Ashes.”
- Cynthia Elder of Fancy Farm, Ky., won second place in photography for “Lowes Truck,” sponsored by Food Giant and Greer’s Neon Company.
- Jenny Fuller of Paducah, Ky., won the Betty Cook Memorial Award for first place in painting for “Dogwood in Fall.”
- Second place painting, sponsored by West Kentucky Rural Electric, went to Joyce Keeling of Calvert City, Ky., for “My Ideal of Flowers.”
- David O. Carrico’s “Weighing the Apples” won the Darlene Phipps Memorial Award for Recognition of Excellence in Oil Painting Realism.
- H. Marie Dolchan’s watercolor “Vase of Iris” was awarded the Laurel Oak Garden Club Award for Best Botanical Representation.
- One merit award, sponsored by Bud Qualk, went to Keith Thomas of Fancy Farm for his painting, “Rectory.”

The Mayfield/Graves County Art Guild is a nonprofit community arts center located in the historic Ice House, 120 North 8th St. in Mayfield. The center is accessible to individuals with disabilities and admission is free. Gallery hours are Tuesdays-Fridays 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m., and Saturdays 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Public forum planned at UT Martin

America's debt crisis is the focus of a Nov. 21 public forum, sponsored by a University of Tennessee at Martin political science class. The forum will be held at 6:30 p.m. in Boling University Center's Watkins Auditorium.

Students in the American government and politics class taught by Lt. Darrell Simmons will conduct the forum that will explore closing tax loopholes, reducing entitlement programs and cutting regulatory agencies. Elected officials were asked to respond to related questions and their responses will be shared during the forum.

For information, contact class members Charles Brackeen or Bethany Meeks. Brackeen can be reached at cbwbrac@ut.utm.edu at (731) 499-0095. Meeks can be reached at betlmeek@utm.edu or at (731) 431-4832.

UTM students plan vigil

Jennifer Hart
Special to The Press

Student Health and Counseling Services is encouraging anyone that has a friend or family member that has died by suicide or even considered suicide to participate in the first-ever Forget-Me-Not Candle-Light Walk.

Suicide is a major public health concern. In the United States suicide is the 11th ranking cause of death and accounts for approximately 33,200 deaths each year. This means there is 1 death by suicide every 15.8 minutes, according to the American Association of Suicidology.

There are approximately one million lives lost each year throughout the world. This results in a yearly incidence of one suicide every 40 seconds. It is estimated that 10 to 20 suicide attempts are made per completed suicide; so, there are several million attempts made every year.

In 2008, Tennessee ranked 20th in the nation in rate of suicide deaths. That same year, deaths by suicide almost doubled the number of homicides.

Unfortunately, suicide also impacts college and university students. It is estimated that 1 out of 10 of the approximate 18 million U.S. college students has considered suicide. It is the second-leading cause of death for this age group.

Individuals of all ages, genders, ethnic groups and religions are affected by suicide and suicide behaviors. Ninety percent of those who die by suicide at any age have a diagnosable mental illness; predominantly depression.

Depression is treatable and manageable but people have to ask for help and/or be encouraged to get help. Risk factors for depression and suicide include mental illness, substance abuse, a sense of hopelessness, access to lethal means, recent loss of a loved one, unemployment and vulnerability to self-harm.

Protective factors include high self-esteem, social connectedness, problem-solving skills and support of family and friends. All of these factors help to provide a buffer against suicide and suicide behaviors.

It is estimated that there are at least six survivors for every suicide victim. Based on this estimate, within the last 25 years, approximately five million Americans became survivors of suicide. The good news is this devastating number can be reduced through more community awareness and prevention programs.

UTM Student Health and Counseling Services' staff is committed to lowering these statistics by increasing our student and community populations' awareness of suicide and the resources available for prevention and survivor therapy.

Please join us for the Forget-Me-Not Candle-Light Walk on Thursday from 5:30-6:30 p.m. We will meet in the Mary Jo and Lew Dougherty Tennessee Room of the McCombs Center.

The group will take a short walk through the UTM quad. Luminaries will be sold for $2 each prior to and during this event to honor anyone who has been impacted by suicide.

The Students of Concern Team also provides Suicide Awareness and Prevention training known as QPR or Question, Persuade and Refer.

Anyone interested in their campus organization or class receiving this training, should contact UTM Student Health and Counseling Services at 881-7750.

Editor's note: Jennifer Hart, LMSW, is a clinical coordinator for Student Health and Counseling on the campus of the University of Tennessee at Martin.
**Professor co-author of education book**

An article co-authored by a University of Tennessee at Martin education professor is included in a new book titled “Considerations on Educational Technology Integration: The Best of JRTE.”

Dr. Glenda Rakes is the primary author of the chapter titled “The Influence of Teachers’ Technology Use on Instructional Practices” that appears in the book released in October.

The Journal of Research on Technology in Education explores topics about the use of technology to improve educational practices.

The book summary featured on the International Society for Technology in Education website notes that technology has not created the “wholesale educational reform” expected by many experts.

Editor Lynne Schrum suggests in the book that a new research agenda is needed, “one that connects educators and researchers.”

The study highlighted in Rakes’ article “investigated the relationship between technology use and skills” and subsequent use of technology in the classroom among rural teachers.

The article co-authors were Dr. Valerie Fields, assistant professor at South Carolina State University, and Dr. Karee Dunn, assistant professor of educational statistics and research methods at the University of Arkansas. Dunn is Rakes’ daughter, who completed work on the study while a doctoral student at the University of Memphis.

Rakes, author and co-author of numerous articles about educational technology, joined the UT Martin faculty in 2002. She earned bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees from the University of Memphis.

**Annual Empty Bowls Soup Supper set for Thursday night at UTM**

For the past eight years, the Interfaith Student Center at the University of Tennessee at Martin has partnered with local potter David McBeth to reach out to the Martin community and raise money for WE Care food pantry.

Their ninth annual Empty Bowls Soup Supper fundraiser will be held from 5-7:30 p.m. Thursday at the Interfaith Student Center on Lovelace Avenue in Martin.

Community members are encouraged to participate in the festivities by bringing a pot of soup to share. For a $10 donation, visitors can enjoy an all-you-can-eat soup supper and take home one of McBeth’s handcrafted bowls. A $5 donation is requested for those who only wish to eat, but UT Martin students can eat for free.

All donations will help feed the hungry in Weakley County.

In the last three years, the Empty Bowls Soup Supper has raised over $7,000 for the WE Care food pantry and 2010 saw a record number of participants.

McBeth, a professor in the UT Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts, donates his time and the cost of materials to make bowls for the supper each year. UT Martin students also help with meal preparations, serving and clean-up, as well as making some of the bowls.

**Preview Day scheduled at UTM**

High school students interested in attending the University of Tennessee at Martin are invited to register for the semester’s second Fall Preview Day, set for Saturday.

Faculty and staff will be available to answer questions about academic programs, financial aid, scholarships, housing and student life.

Registration will begin at 9 a.m. in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

A welcome and information will be held from 9:30-10:30 a.m., followed by an academic fair from 10:30-11:15 and an Academic Department visit from 11:15 to noon. A campus tour will be held from noon to 1:30 p.m.

For more information, contact the Office of Admissions at (731) 881-7020 or register online at www.utm.edu.
UT Martin professor of art honored as featured scholar

Lane Last, a professor of art at the University of Tennessee at Martin, was named the Featured Faculty Scholar for fall 2012 during a recent ceremony. Each semester, UT Martin recognizes outstanding faculty for excellence in teaching and scholarship.

"It isn't often that we get to honor artists," Dr. Lynn Alexander, dean of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts, said during the award presentation. "Just in the last three years Lane has participated in exhibits or shows or meetings in 12 countries, and this is the kind of international reputation he's been able to build and it's so exciting to have someone like this at UTM."

"Lane does everything that I ask of a faculty member well and that's worth a lot to me," added Doug Cook, chair of the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts.

Addressing the audience, Last thanked his family and friends for their support and Cook for his friendship and being a good boss. Lane also thanked his mentor in graduate school, George Cramer, for his guidance.

"He (Cramer) gave me the advice, 'Get to a public university so you can have the freedom to find out who you are.'" Last said.

Last grew up in Freeport, Ill., and earned a master of fine arts degree and bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, with primary concentrations in painting, digital art, video and new media. He also attended Southern Illinois University and Los Angeles Valley College.

He joined the faculty at UT Martin in 1999 as an assistant professor. He was promoted to associate professor in 2005 and to professor in 2010. He previously taught at Mt. Sanario College in Ladysmith, Wis., as an assistant professor and Highland Community College in Freeport, Ill., as an instructor.

Last is a member of many professional societies and organizations, including the Arts Co-Op in Martin, Nashville's Tennesseans for the Arts and Art and Science Collaborations Inc. of New York. His artwork can be found in public and private collections across the U.S., Korea, Italy and Japan.

A sample of his work is now on display in the Paul Meek Library on the UT Martin campus.
Book features chapter co-authored by professor

An article co-authored by Dr. Glenda Rakes, a University of Tennessee at Martin education professor, is included in a new book, "Considerations on Educational Technology Integration: The Best of JRTE."

Dr. Rakes is the primary author of the chapter titled "The Influence of Teachers' Technology Use on Instructional Practices" that appears in the book, released in October.

The Journal of Research on Technology in Education explores topics about the use of technology to improve educational practices. The book summary features on the International Society for Technology in Education website notes that technology has not created the "wholesale educational reform" expected by many experts. Editor Lynne Schrum suspects in the book that a new research agenda is needed, "one that connects educators and researchers."

The study highlighted in Dr. Rakes' article "investigated the relationship between technology use and skills" and subsequent use of technology in the classroom among rural teachers.

The article co-authors were Dr. Valerie Fields, assistant professor at South Carolina State University, and Dr. Karee Dunn, assistant professor of educational statistics and research methods at the University of Arkansas. Dr. Dunn is Dr. Rakes' daughter, who completed work on the study while a doctoral student at the University of Memphis.

Business advice offered to entrepreneurs at county Industrial Training Center

Erik Markin, University of Tennessee at Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center/Tennessee Small Business Development Center consultant, will help aspiring entrepreneurs and existing business owners with business advice from 1-5 p.m., Nov. 24, at the Obion County Industrial Training Center.

Markin recently joined the TSBDC after spending five years in the financial industry and owning and operating two small businesses. He will be giving advice about business planning, financing options, marketing, customer service, cash flow and other issues. The consultations are one-on-one, confidential and free.

Appointments can be made by contacting the Obion County Chamber at 731-885-0211 or by contacting Markin at 731-587-7333. For additional services offered by TSBDC, go to www.tsbdc.org.

UT Martin political science class to hold public forum on Nov. 21

America's debt crisis is the focus of a Nov. 21 public forum, sponsored by a University of Tennessee at Martin political science class. The forum will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the Boling University Center's Watkins Auditorium.

Students in the American Government and Politics class taught by Lt. Darrell Simmons will conduct the forum that will explore closing tax loopholes, reducing entitlement programs and cutting regulatory agencies. Elected officials were asked to respond to related questions, and those responses will be shared during the forum.

For information, contact class members Charles Brackeen or Bethany Meeks. Brackeen can be reached at chawbrac@ututm.edu or call him at 731-499-0095. Meeks can be reached at belmeek@ututm.edu or call her at 731-431-4832.
UTM to host Fall Preview Day for high school students Nov. 19

High school students interested in attending the University of Tennessee at Martin are invited to register for the semester's second Fall Preview Day, scheduled for November 19. Faculty and staff will be available to answer questions about academic programs, financial aid, scholarships, housing and student life.

Registration will begin at 9 a.m. and all events will be held in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center. Event times are as follows:
- 9:30-10:30 a.m.: welcome and information session
- 10:30-11:15 a.m.: Academic Fair
- 11:15 a.m.-noon: academic department visit
- noon-1:30 p.m.: campus tour

For more information, contact the Office of Admissions at 731-881-7020 or register online at www.utm.edu.

Santa's Village celebrates 27th year

The legacy of Santa's Village can be measured in the amount of food and toys that have been collected and donated to service agencies through its 26 years. Those donations, totaling $933,462, have been distributed to area residents who need them.

Santa's Village will mark its 27th anniversary, Dec. 8-11, continuing that tradition and also continuing to provide four days of family holiday entertainment. To date, 239,256 people have attended Santa's Village.

The fantasyland provides the sights, sounds and fun of Christmas. It is staged each year at the Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Slated for 6-9 p.m., Dec. 8-11

Village from Page 1

8-9 a.m.-9 p.m., Dec. 10; and 1-5 p.m., Dec. 11, the event will return to the "Enchanted Forest" theme in scenes depicting the holidays. Also featured will be a giant Christmas tree, wagon rides on Friday through Sunday, MTD model train display, children's rides and vendor booths. Twenty hours of continuous local entertainment and a petting farm will add to the festivities. Doors open at 6 p.m.

Dec. 8. Admission is a suggested donation of $5 worth of nonperishable foods and/or toys.

Service agencies receiving food and toys collected at Santa's Village this year include: Chimes for Charity, We Care Ministries, NWTN Disaster Services, Santa's Helpers, Healthy Start NW Region and Northwest Tennessee Economic Development Council.

Co-sponsors for the event are the City of Martin and UT Martin. Additional sponsors of the event include: First State, MTD Products, Tyson Foods, Volunteer Community Hospital and McDonald's. As part of the event each year, WCMT sponsors a can caravan for canned food donations collected at the schools.

"We are fortunate to have sponsors who contribute money, as well as volunteers who spend their time and effort helping in this event," said Kim Kirby, Martin Parks and Recreation Department program director. "We are proud to provide a free holiday event, while helping the less fortunate in the area."

Kirby expressed thanks to the service agencies that use the bounty of food and toys from Santa's Village to benefit families in the region at holiday time and, in some cases, throughout the year.

For more information about Santa's Village, contact Martin Parks and Recreation Department at 587-6784.
Students offer spirit of volunteerism

Sara Rachels
Staff Writer

Most of the time, when a person needs help, all he or she needs to do is ask. Volunteers exist around each and every corner, and most of the time, are able to fill a standard-sized classroom.

This is exactly what "volunteer-minded" Sharye Hendrix discovered when she chose to address three of Dr. Nancy Sonnieltner's social problems classes in August. The response was immediate and unanimous. Class members and several members of the Sigma Chi and Pike fraternities jumped at the chance and, on Sept. 10-11, they were at the airport extravaganza at the Everett-Stewart Regional Airport taking up tickets.

"In order to demonstrate the connections students are making between lectures, course work and the realities of the community, students must reflect on their learning in the context of their volunteer work. This is accomplished through a guided reflection that asks students to identify the social problem present in their volunteer experience and how they connect that problem to their academic experience.

Student reflections are often highly introspective, insightful and poignant in their understanding of the ramifications of specific social problems on individuals and families in the community and in the larger society," she added.

"Frequently, the requirement that students volunteer in the community results in a lifelong commitment to civic engagement and contributing their skills and talents to making life better for others." Hendrix had every confidence in their enthusiasm and abilities and the students never quit. They succeeded in recruiting 22 kids for Reading Railroad in Obion County, helped in the V.I.P. tent, cooked, sold concessions and T-shirts, took up tickets, ran the snow cone machine and patrolled the inflatables.

"If it hadn't been for these volunteers, we couldn't have had such a success with this event as we did," airport manager Jo Ann Speer said.
Later on, after the event, the students received an extra treat in the form of a pizza party. At that time, they were let in on how much their contributions truly meant, especially for cystic fibrosis.

"Jo Ann gave a talk about the disease and how, with their volunteering, they'd helped with 'Kick CF,' the nationwide program that challenges college students to raise funds and awareness for the disease," Hendrix said.

"It was very emotional and eye opening. They'd helped with an event and a cause."

Several students wrote letters about their experience and the fraternities pledged more help on the spot. Vendors offered praise for the volunteers.

"UTM prides itself on getting out into the community to help and this is a fun event," Hendrix said.

"I told the group, 'You never know who's watching you. You never know who you might impress to do something like this. We can do this.'"

Class members who helped included Hunter Smith, Chaz Edwards, Matt Melton, Forrester M. Wall, Bob Baker, Nicholas Michaels, Anthony Young, Trey Pruet, David Foley, Matt Wright, Chamby Callicott, Marcia Mayes, Patricia Dimming, Brittany Payne, Kimberly Foley, Charli Jent, Krysten Harris, Amanda Greer, Megan Spelling, Jane Adele Scott, James Payne, Alexandria Todd, Kimberly Woods, Ashley Cunningham and Dylan Gillespie.

Fraternity members who volunteered included Jamie Freeman, Luke Lemons, Keith Malm, Josh Horton, Jeremy Bond, Justin Burns, Lee French, Ryan Williams, Colton Jones, Joey Moore, Patrick James, Terrance Phifer, Jacob Schnittjer, Mark Harris, Taner Swinea, Garrett Cote, Michael Bequiristain, Kyle Williams, Eric Staggs and Robert Burrow.

In a letter, Cunningham spoke of her time helping with the Reading Railroad booth.

"I was assigned to work the Reading Railroad, a program that I was in as a child. As soon as the gates opened, the children began to come in handfuls at a time," she said.

"As the crowds came, the show began. It was amazing to see such a large object move so gracefully through the air. Each plane moved higher and faster than the last and just left me feeling proud that such amazing people could work so hard for such a great cause. This event would do such wonderful things for so many people in need. It was a lot of fun and amazing to be a part of."

The Sigma Chi fraternity also wrote a letter of appreciation in being allowed to be part of such an event.

"A portion of the proceeds went towards the research and awareness of cystic fibrosis, a charity we are proud to support. The time we spent working presented our brothers with the opportunity to exercise leadership, teamwork and responsibility as well as giving us the privilege of getting our chapter more involved in the community," the letter read.

"I just can't say enough about how much this helped," Hendrix said.

"I started turning up money on the street as a volunteer and I'm now helping with this event. This is something I look forward to every year and I look forward to the potential for more and more volunteers to join in."

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The ladies of the music fraternity Sigma Alpha Iota (SAI), Epsilon Iota chapter, at the University of Tennessee at Martin, will present their annual fall musical at 7:30 p.m. at the Trinity Presbyterian Church in Martin.

SAI members will present a variety of vocal performances, including solos, small groups and the SAI choir. Instrumental pieces are also on the program, including works for piano, clarinet quartet, vibraphone and the UT Martin clarinet choir.

The SAI choir will perform traditional works from the SAI songbook, including "The Prayer of SAI," "Pan in Canon," "Benediction" and the "SAI Chorale," as well as "For the Beauty of the Earth" by John Rutter. Sigma Alpha Iota (SAI) is a fraternity for young women with a passion for music.

The performance is free and open to the public. Trinity Presbyterian Church is located at 145 Hanners Lane in Martin.

For more information, contact Dr. Elaine Harriss, chair of the Department of Music, at 881-7411.

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Sodexo Dining Services will be sponsoring "A Very Merry Martin Christmas" for We Care Ministries at 6:30 p.m. at the Duncan Ballroom in the UT Martin Boling University Center. Admission is $20 per person and there will be a Christmas dinner, fellowship and a live Christmas variety show featuring local talent.

Reserve-seat tickets may be purchased at all Martin banks. The menu will consist of butternut squash soup, pistachio cranberry fresh herb-crusted pork tenderloin, sweet potato mash, roasted baby vegetables and a trio of holiday decadence for dessert.
MHA benefits from contributions

Laura Buckland  
Special to The Press

The Martin Housing Authority receives financial assistance from United Way for two programs for Weakley County residents: Learning Enrichment Center and the Crossroads Teen Center. With this assistance from United Way, Martin Housing Authority is able to provide staff, school supplies, and healthy snacks for each of these two programs.

The Learning Enrichment Center provides children with a place to go to after school and "unwind" and receive assistance with their homework. The children are generally at the center for about 3 hours after school and during those three hours they have a "feedback" time, homework time, and if there is any time left over they will play games or watch some educational TV.

The "feedback" time is when the children are able to eat a healthy snack and talk about their day to one of the staff members. This specific time allows the children to transition from a long school day to a more relaxed environment.

Usually on a day-to-day basis there are four assistants along with the program director, Robert Nunley, to assist with the children.

The majority of the time spent at the center is doing homework with assistance from the staff and also UT Martin volunteers. The Learning Enrichment Center is able to provide 1:1 ratio during homework time which would not be possible if it wasn't for United Way assistance.

However, the volunteers at UT Martin provide the center with a big majority of help in being able to provide that 1:1 ratio along with the staff.

The partnership between the learning center and UT Martin is significant because it allows several professors from UT Martin to come in and teach art and music lessons for the children. The Learning Enrichment Center also provides a summer program for children that includes mediation, one full meal and "more fun" activities compared to the after school program.

The summer program lasts six hours a weekday during the months the children are not in school.

Registration for the Learning Enrichment Center starts at the beginning of the school year and is first come first serve. It is available for children grades kindergarten through fifth grade and as of right now the center is at capacity with 40 children signed up. However, there is a waiting list for children to sign up on if a child were to drop out of the program.

Crossroads Teen Center is much like the Learning Enrichment Center in that it provides a time of "debriefing" an hour of study time, and if time permits they will be able to play games or relax.

Crossroads has two program assistants one of which is a graduate from UT Martin, Wes Curtis, who is able to help the teenagers with their Spanish homework since he's fluent in Spanish. The children are provided a snack during "debriefing" time followed by a mandatory hour of homework time. On average there are 45 teenagers enrolled at the teen center.

These two programs are very essential in a child's everyday lifestyle allowing them to have assistance with their homework, establish trusting relationships with adults, and socially interact with others in a comfortable atmosphere.

The Learning Enrichment Center and Crossroads Teen Center are free of charge and open to anyone in Weakley County due to the assistance from United Way.

Brian Harris, executive director of Martin Housing Authority states, "United Way has been the single most consistent funding source of the Martin Housing Authority from day one." For more information regarding the Martin Housing Authority or these two programs, contact Kristy Robinson at kristy@martinhousing.org.

United Way also funds 12 other local agencies providing a variety of services to the community.

If you are interested in getting involved with this year's United Way Campaign in Weakley County you can call Brian Harris, 2011 campaign chair for the United Way in Weakley County, at 587-3186 or Jennifer Wood, resource director for United Way, at (731) 422-1816.

For more information find United Way on Facebook or visit its website at www.unitedway.tn.org.

Editor's note: Laura Buckland is a senior communications student at the University of Tennessee at Martin.
The vocal students of Dr. Roberto Mancusi, assistant professor of music, and Dr. Amy Yeung, associate professor of music, will present a group recital at 7:30 p.m., Nov. 28.

The performance will be in Watkins Auditorium in the Boling University Center on the University of Tennessee at Martin campus.

Twenty-one students will perform one song each as part of an evening of entertainment. Delana Easley, lecturer of music, and several student pianists will accompany the performers.

The performance is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Yeung at 881-7408, or by email at ayeung@utm.edu.
Retired general to lead area think tank on jobs, energy

By GLENN TANNER
P-I Staff Writer

An area think-tank led by a retired general will host a public policy forum at the University of Tennessee at Martin later this month.


Named for the iconic Tennessee pioneer, statesman and soldier David Crockett, the institute will co-host a forum titled "Renewable Energy and Job Creation in Northwestern Tennessee" at 7 p.m. Nov. 29 at the humanities auditorium at UT Martin.

Castellaw, who has retired to work the third-generation family farm in Atwood, paid a visit to The P-I office recently to talk about the upcoming forum, and what the newly-formed think-tank hopes to accomplish in the years ahead.

The non-partisan, non-profit institute hopes to improve the lives of Tennesseans by building on Crockett's legacy.

"I think we created the Crockett Policy Institute because we wanted to be a part of facilitating finding practical solutions that fit in with our conservative culture here in Tennessee for the challenges that face us," he said.

"Crockett was not an elitist. He was a common man, and he believed in supporting the common people against all comers."

Castellaw said the CPI takes a conservative stance on many issues that fit in with West Tennessee's conservative culture.

He also acknowledged the conventional wisdom of fossil fuels' impact on climate change, and said America must reduce its dependency on foreign oil.

"Crockett was not afraid to do what he thought was right, and that's where we are. What we're dedicated to is facilitating discussion, everybody at the table, everything on the table," Castellaw said.

The first of what Castellaw hopes will be many discussions will take place at UTM, where he received a bachelor's degree in agriculture in 1972.

A teaching fellow in the school's growing international security studies program, Castellaw joined with political science professor Malcolm Koch, Ph.D., to create the forum at UTM.

Moderated by retired Jim Byford, Ph.D., dean of agriculture, the panel also will include agriculture professor Joey Melhorn, Ph.D., State Sen. Roy Herron, D-Dresden, and 79th District Rep. Curtis Halford, R-Dyer.

Joining them will be Andrew Holland, an energy specialist from the Washington D.C.-based American Security Project, one of the

Continued from Page 1A

CPI's partner organizations.

We're working to add a sixth one who's an expert in job creation," he said. "We haven't nailed him down yet."

The forum will begin with comments and presentations from panel members, followed by a question and answer session.

We think this is a good opportunity," Castellaw said. "West Tennessee, I think, is positioned well for renewable energy. As you start peeling the onion back, you see a lot of stuff that's already going on."

This includes the Green Plains Energy ethanol plant in Rives, a solar farm in Haywood County, Sharp Industries in Memphis that makes solar arrays, and an experimental wind facility just approved north of Dyersburg.

He hopes to eventually see large-scale commercial operations spring up in the area.

"We've already proved that we can provide fuel stock to the ethanol plant," he said. "There are a lot of cellulose-based opportunities."

This includes the switchgrass research being done at UT Knoxville.

"Wood chips, waste, all of that are feed stocks that you can produce biofuel from. And we've got the land that we can put the facilities on," he said. "Just think about the (Milan) arsenal that's available, and Goodyear that just closed down."

The day after Castellaw made his remarks, a deal was announced in The Union City Daily Messenger that the Good-year factory would be sold to Titan Tire Corporation, one of the country's largest manufacturers of off-road tires.

Castellaw is also excited...
about the possibility of air carriers like Memphis-based Federal Express converting to a 50-50 biofuel mixture, as some airlines in France are beginning to do.

"Right now, it’s more expensive," he said. "It’s got to get to get the commercial level to bring it down to where it’s economically viable."

A 36-year veteran of the Marine Corps, Castellaw said he’s trying to balance his retirement with his wife, Wanda Nelson Castellaw, into thirds, on the advice of a mentor. "You should spend a third of your time doing what you want to," he said. "Well, I like to play golf, and stuff like that. You should spend a third of your time continuing to accumulate revenue, so I do some consulting, and I call myself a farmer. And a third of your time, you give back."

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**Santa’s Village celebrates 27 years**

The legacy of Santa’s Village can be measured in the amount of food and toys that have been collected and donated to service agencies through its 26 years.

Those donations — totaling $933,462 — have been distributed to area residents who need them. Santa’s Village will mark its 27th anniversary Dec. 8-11, continuing that tradition and also continuing to provide four days of family holiday entertainment.

To date, a total of 239,256 people have attended Santa’s Village.

The fantasyland provides the sights, sounds and fun of Christmas. It is staged each year at the Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

This year’s event will be open Dec. 8-9 from 6-9 p.m.; Dec. 10 from 11 a.m.-9 p.m.; and Dec. 11 from 1-5 p.m.

Santa’s Village will return to the “Enchanted Forest” theme in scenes depicting the holidays. Also featured will be a giant Christmas tree, wagon rides on Friday through Sunday, an MTD model train display, children’s rides and vendor booths. Twenty hours of continuous local entertainment and a petting farm will add to the festivities.

Admission is a suggested donation of $5 worth of non-perishable foods and/or toys.

Service agencies which will receive food and toys collected at Santa’s Village this year include Chimes for Charity, Northwest Tennessee Disaster Services, Care Ministries, Santa’s Helpers, Healthy Start Northwest Region and Northwest Tennessee Economic Development Council.

Co-sponsors for the event are the City of Martin and UT Martin. Additional sponsors include First State, MTD Products, Tyson Foods, Volunteer Community Hospital and McDonald’s. As part of the event each year, WCMT radio sponsors a can caravan for canned food donations collected at schools.

"We are fortunate to have sponsors who contribute money, as well as volunteers who spend their time and effort helping in this event," said Kim Kirby, Martin Parks and Recreation Department program director. "We are proud to provide a free holiday event, while helping the less fortunate in the area."

Kirby expressed appreciation to the service agencies that use the bounty of food and toys from Santa’s Village to benefit families in the region at Christmas time and, in some cases, throughout the year.

For more information about Santa’s Village, contact Martin Parks and Recreation Department at (731) 587-6784.

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**UTM preview day**

High school students interested in attending the University of Tennessee at Martin are invited to register for the semester’s second Fall Preview Day, scheduled for this Saturday.

Faculty and staff will be available to answer questions about academic programs, financial aid, scholarships, housing and student life.

Registration will begin at 9 a.m. in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

Event times are: 9:30-10:30 a.m. — welcome and information session; 10:30-11:15 a.m. — academic fair; 11:15 a.m.-noon — academic department visit; noon-1:30 p.m. — campus tour.

For more information, call the Office of Admissions at (731) 881-7020, or register online at utm.edu.
Think tank to focus its efforts on area’s economic development

By KEVIN BOWDEN
Staff Reporter

Identifying opportunities for economic growth, with a definite focus on the environment, is the goal of a newly formed think tank group based out of Crockett County.

The Crockett Policy Institute was recently formed with a four-pronged approach for economic development: jobs, energy, education and government.

Retired Lt. Gen. John Castellaw is the president of the Crockett Policy Institute and retired Congressman John Tanner is currently serving as chairman of the board.

Castellaw is actively involved in promoting the need for Tennessee to support clean energy initiatives and is bringing his message to northwest Tennessee later this month. The non-partisan policy and research organization is co-hosting an open forum with the University of Tennessee at Martin scheduled for 7 p.m. Nov. 29 in the humanities auditorium on the UTM campus. The forum is entitled “Renewable Energy and Job Creation in Northwest Tennessee.”

“We’ll talk about what is being done in terms of research and development,” Castellaw said.

He will open the forum and former UTM Dean of Agriculture Dr. Jim Byford will serve as the moderator. Among those who are scheduled to participate on the panel will be state Sen. Roy Herron, state Rep. Curtis Halford and Dr. Joseph Mehlor.

Co-sponsoring the UTM forum is just one of the methods Castellaw said his institute is using to challenge conventional thinking and consider new approaches to economic development. He said the institute will use its new website, is writing op-ed articles for newspapers across Tennessee and will join forces with other like-minded think tanks to promote its agenda.

“We’re devoted to facilitating civil discussions of issues important to Tennessee,” Castellaw said. He hopes to bring together the public and private sectors to come up with new ideas and initiatives to address challenges being faced by the state.

At the top of the institute’s list of challenges is promoting an eco-friendly environment through the use of renewable energy.

(See Page 6, Col. 1)

Think...
(Continued from Page 1)

Castellaw said he and others involved in the institute would like to see “a better future for our children.”

One of the ways to achieve that goal is to work toward more environmentally friendly and renewable energy sources, according to Castellaw. He is able to recite statistics and figures related to Tennessee’s reliance on fossil fuels — oil, coal and natural gas.

Castellaw is also quick to identify organizations such as UTM and Fed Ex that are making tremendous strides toward eco-friendly energy initiatives. Other renewable energy developments taking place in West Tennessee include the ethanol plant north of Obion, the West Tennessee Solar Farm in Haywood County, a wind power experiment in Dyer County and a Lexington company formed in 2009 that has developed residential solar panels.

West Tennessee is a prime region in terms of its potential for environmentally-friendly developments, according to Castellaw, who said he hopes to tap into the region’s resources.

“Our greatest asset is always brainpower,” he said.

Castellaw is a native of Crockett County and is no stranger to UTM. He played freshman basketball at the university, was a member of the school’s Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity and was a member of UTM’s ROTC unit. He is a teaching fellow at UTM and most recently was the keynote speaker at UTM’s December 2010 commencement.

Castellaw graduated from UTM in 1972 with a bachelor of science degree in agriculture and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps. His long and distinguished military career covered 36 years and included high-level military operations around the world.

He first served in Marine tank and amphibious tractor units before becoming a pilot. During his career he held several Marine commands and also served with U.N. peacekeepers during the Siege of Sarajevo. Castellaw served as the chief of staff for the U.S. Central Command at the height of the war in Iraq and he held senior administrative positions while working in the Pentagon prior to his retirement in 2008 with the rank of lieutenant general.

Castellaw currently serves on several boards, works with economic development organizations and advises corporations on management and strategic planning.

The mission statement for the Crockett Policy Institute focuses on “improving the lives of Tennesseans by providing practical, workable and fair solutions to address the challenges facing the state.”

The institute is currently made up of six members with diverse backgrounds. Castellaw said new members will be recruited to be a part of the fledgling think tank organization.

Staff Reporter Kevin Bowden may be contacted by email at knbowden@ucmessenger.com.
UT Martin professor contributes to book

An article co-authored by a University of Tennessee at Martin education professor is included in a new book titled “Considerations on Educational Technology Integration: The Best of JRTE.”

Glenda Rakes is the primary author of the chapter titled “The Influence of Teachers’ Technology Use on Instructional Practices” that appears in the book released in October, according to a news release.

The Journal of Research on Technology in Education explores topics about the use of technology to improve educational practices.

The study highlighted in Rakes’ article “investigated the relationship between technology use and skills” and subsequent use of technology in the classroom among rural teachers.

The article co-authors were Valerie Fields, assistant professor at South Carolina State University, and Karee Dunn, assistant professor of educational statistics and research methods at the University of Arkansas.

Dunn, who is Rakes’ daughter, completed work on the study while a doctoral student at the University of Memphis.

Business assistance offered

Business consultant Erik Markin will help aspiring entrepreneurs and existing business owners with business advice from 1-5 p.m. Tuesday at the Obion County Industrial Training Center in downtown Union City.

Markin is a consultant with the University of Tennessee at Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center/Tennessee Small Business Development Center.

He recently joined the TSBDC after spending five years in the financial industry and owning and operating two small businesses. Markin will be giving advice about business planning, financing options, marketing, customer service, cash flow and other issues.

The consultations are one-on-one, confidential and free.

Appointments can be made by contacting the Obion County Chamber of Commerce at 885-0211 or by contacting Markin at (731) 587-7333.

FORCUM LANNOM HONORED

— The University of Tennessee at Martin recently honored Forcum Lannom Contractors LLC of Dyersburg on the company’s 100 years in business.

The company received a plaque for its success during a luncheon, which also celebrated the campus/corporate partnership and the many university alumni who have become members of Forcum Lannom’s team.

At the luncheon were (from left) Rich Helgeson, dean of the UTM College of Engineering and Natural Sciences; Don Pennington, chairman emeritus of Forcum Lannom; J.B. Glass, president/CEO of Forcum Lannom; David Taylor, chairman of Forcum Lannom; and Tom Rakes, UTM chancellor.
BETH MALOAN AWARD – Hannah Stewart (second from left) received the Fall 2011 Beth Maloan Outstanding UT Martin Student Employee Award. On hand for the presentation were (from left) Phil Dane, director of intercollegiate athletics; and Maloan family members, Kate Stroh (front), Mike Maloan, Jennifer Maloan Stroh and Colin Stroh.

Submitted photo

Stewart named outstanding employee

The Fall 2011 Beth Maloan Outstanding UT Martin Student Employee Award recently was presented to Hannah Paige Stewart, undergraduate faculty assistant. Stewart is a junior communications major and has been employed for 1 1/2 years at the Margaret N. Perry Children's Center.

Stewart works as part of a teaching team in a preschool classroom, where she is responsible for planning and implementing activities, supervising the classroom and outside play area, being a positive role model for the children and practicum teachers and greeting parents and keeping them informed about their child's daily performance.

"Hannah is one of those people that can make a dull day brighter. She has such a positive attitude and is always willing to help," said Leanne Snider, Stewart's supervisor. "She is very trustworthy and respectful of our children and their families. I can always count on Hannah to go above and beyond what is expected and without constant reminders."

The award, given every fall and spring semester, is a memorial for Beth Maloan, longtime UT Martin director of budgeting and payroll, who, during her years of service, was a strong advocate for student employment.

Maloan had a vision that more positions would be developed on campus that would challenge students and make them significant contributors to the university's mission.

Recipients of this award exemplify a strong work ethic and commitment to the university, and they receive a $1,000 cash award, an engraved plaque and a nameplate on the perpetual plaque in a place of honor in the Boling University Center.

Contributions to this scholarship award may be made through payroll deduction by employees of UT Martin or by sending a contribution to the Office of Development at UT Martin.

Stewart is a native of Newbern.
Far from the green wooded landscape of West Tennessee, 11 college geology students and two faculty stared across a seemingly infinite expanse of plateau dotted with short spurts of grass.

A closer view of the panorama revealed canyon-like cuts in the terrain, cuts that concealed artifacts never seen by human eyes.

It was May when the 11 geology students from the University of Tennessee at Martin arrived at the Dighton, Kan., farm- land. It was hot as they assessed the dry crumbly earth, a fine dust covered their shoes and the bottoms of their jeans.

Sunglasses protected their eyes from the beating sun, but their eyes were con- stantly tilted toward the ground, searching, searching ... and then there was the discovery.

"They uncovered fossils buried for millions of years, some of which are new and significant finds to science," said Dr. Michael Gibson, UT Martin professor of geology.

He was referring to the Mosasaur, a prehistoric marine lizard, and two prehistoric fish fossils from the Cretaceous period that the group found and excavated to be displayed in a museum.

"I mean, to walk along these weathered chalk layers and to find an ancient creature fossilized in time is really just awesome. To think that these specimens were from the Cretaceous period and would date at around 73 million years old; it's nuts!" said UT Martin senior geoscience major, Aaron Scott, who was part of the excavation group.

"I hear and I forget. I see and I remem- ber ..." goes the old saying by Confucius, a notion that museums usually heed with displays, images and videos as they attempt to educate visitors. Education is generally the occasion for visiting a museum, or building one for that matter, but not so often are museums able to sympathize with the completing words of the phrase, "I do and I understand."

Ironically, and perhaps appropriately, the great prehistoric discovery was for and financed by none other than Discovery Park of America, the large educational and entertainment complex presently being erected in Union City.

It is funded principally by the Robert E. and Jenny D. Kirkland Foundation, and upon its scheduled opening in 2013 will feature an expansive array of exhibits in- cluding an extensive natural history section, where the fossils will be featured.

The Kirklands are long time supporters of educational pursuits in the rural region around Union City. So it's no surprise when Gibson, who has been responsible for planning the natural history exhibits, proposed the idea to the Kirkland Foundation in the fall of 2010 to finance an excavation trip for the area's college students, it was readily accepted.

"Robert and I are delighted with the results achieved by the UTM students and Dr. Gibson on their search for fossils," said Jenny Kirkland, president of the Kirkland Foundation. "Their project is a good example of the educational benefits that Discovery Park will bring to this region."

"Mr. Kirkland really wanted to be able to have some real fossil specimens," Gibson said. "So the idea I pitched to them was rather than go buy everything, why don't we go and collect some things that would then be on display, and they would own the originals."

By the following spring the trip was a go and the hunt on.

"The first day, I couldn't even see the dig site from where we stopped. We were all set up on a ridge that overlooked a lower valley, but there were plants covering most of what I could see, so I assumed the site was somewhere else," said senior geoscience major, Angela Reddick, who was also on the excavation trip.

Gibson chose the site in Kansas, rented by Trichold Paleontology Inc., for its reputation as a large fossil hot spot. Still, the first two days of the dig were slow as the students only came across small insignificant fossils.

"I believe it was on the third day we were out there, everyone was starting to feel a little let down because we hadn't found very much," Reddick said. She then described the excitement she felt when she found out that other members of her group found the first large specimen, a huge fish. "It was so exciting then. I just wanted to be a part of digging it out."

Scott, however, was lucky enough to be one that originally spotted a large fossil.

"As I was topping a rise in the chalk I saw jaws sticking out of the ground, called over our group leader, and we began the excavation process on what would turn out to be a Cimolichthys fish," he said.

The Cimolichthys fossil was not one of...
The two fish that were excavated, but it will be excavated next year, Gibson clarified.

The students were then able to apply various methods of excavation to dig out the other three fossils, first taking GPS coordinates, and removing sediment from the top of the specimens with fine whisk brushes, xacto knives and dental pick type instruments.

They then dug out the sediment encasing the specimens and prepared them for transportation with a process called jacketing.

The three fossils are worth roughly $250,000 in their jacketed form but will be worth more after they are finally prepped, which is the second part of the project.

In March of 2013, Discovery Park will be paying for several of the same geology students to fly to Trumbold's laboratory in Colorado to finish reading the fossil samples.

"A vast majority of paleontologists will go through their entire career and never find these," Gibson said.

The large fossils will be but a small part of the vast Natural History Gallery of Discovery Park, that will showcase roughly 4172 billion years of geologic past.

The gallery will include a suspended 42-foot replica of the Mosasaur reptile fossil that the students discovered as well as several dinosaurs, including an 80-foot Apatosaurus and a Tyrannosaurus rex; plus, displays of rocks, minerals and gems.

"The gallery will be a big ‘walk through time,’ which goes from the earliest life forms on earth up to where we are today," Gibson said, adding that he recently returned from a trip to the Smithsonian’s Natural History Museum in Washington, D.C., where he negotiated the loaning of a 30,000 year old fossilized pig for display at Discovery Park that was originally found outside of Paducah, Ky.

The educational benefits of Discovery Park will be immeasurable, but "I do and I understand," really comes into play for UT Martin students across a variety of majors who will be reaping the benefits from the relationship between the university and the museum.

Three broadcasting students from UT Martin's communications program, with broadcasting instructor, Rodney Freed, accompanied the geology students on the dig to film a documentary of the discovery.

The film may be featured in the museum, and there could be more opportunities for similar fieldwork in the future.

Dr. Lionel Crews, associate professor of physics, has also been highly involved in technology and astronomy exhibits.

Additionally, Gibson mentioned other proposed student trips for the spring or next fall to obtain rocks and minerals for the museum.

Later in the museum's development, Gibson added, it will move into a phase that includes designing curriculum for schools and the public.

This will highly involve the science, history and education departments.

"For us to be able have this relationship with the Kirklands, so that they came to us to do this park, it's fortuitous ... they've been really good about allowing us to go ahead and supply some student work," Gibson said.

He went on to say that internships with Discovery Park will hopefully be a future part of the UT Martin/Discovery Park relationship.

"We hope to find many ways for UTM and Discovery Park to collaborate for the mutual benefit of both organizations and especially for the benefit of the thousands of people who will visit Discovery Park," Kirkland said.

If the amount of education it has offered nearly two years before its opening is any indication, Discovery Park should impress.

But at this point, 11 geology students are still reeling.

"The difference of a trip like this and a classroom experience, it is huge," Scott said.
On an average day in the classroom, Dr. Stan Dunagan, associate professor of geology at the University of Tennessee at Martin, passionately lectures on water resource issues, volcanic hazards and earthquakes. He discusses tectonic plate motion, climate change issues and fossil fuel reserves, among other scientific topics.

Last summer, however, he was catapulted off of an aircraft carrier flight deck, accelerating from zero to 130 mph in two seconds. That day was not average.

As part of the U.S. Navy’s Distinguished Visitors program, Dunagan was invited to spend roughly 30 hours on the USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier, where he witnessed first hand the life of Navy servicemen.

He and 14 others toured most of the carrier, including the flag bridge, combat direction center, public affairs offices, meteorology department, medical and dental facilities, chapel, library and educational areas.

“The ship was amazing, the aircraft exhilarating, the flight and out thrilling beyond words, and the sailors were admirable and deserving of my gratitude and praise for their service to our country,” Dunagan said.

In the Distinguished Visitors program, individuals in influential positions, including legislative representatives, corporate executives and educators, are invited to experience the unique, first-hand look at serviceman life aboard aircraft carriers.

Dunagan received his invitation by email about three weeks prior to the trip, which he said was quite a surprise.

“One could argue that you have to have certain leadership skills and/or potential in your field of expertise in order to literally be on the Navy’s radar for the DV program,” Dunagan said. “But, honestly, at first I thought the email was a phishing scam.”

After flying to San Diego, Calif., Dunagan and his Distinguished Visitors group were flown to the USS Lincoln, situated off the coast of Mexico, aboard a C-2A Greyhound aircraft. To fly to the USS Lincoln, the DV group wore flotation vests, helmets and flight visors during the 45-minute flight from Colorado Bay to the USS Lincoln.

“The Navy was running maneuvers, recertification for F/A-18 pilots, so they can take off and land in carriers,” Dunagan said. “We were cleared to land in between runs of F/A-18s.”

Once aboard, the group got to observe the day operations (ops), which consist of takeoffs and landings from the USS Lincoln flight deck.

“The day ops are so hard to describe. You’re standing 20 to 25 feet away from one of these F/A-18 jet fighters during the daytime, and that thing powers up and shoots off. I was afraid it was going to blow the camera out of my hands. You could feel the heat from their jet engines, that tremendous heat wave washes over you as the jet shoots down the flight deck, and it is just so indescribably loud. You smell and can almost taste the jet fuel burning off. It gave me chills every time,” Dunagan said.

“I could have stood there all day long just watching them take off.”

Unfortunately the tour schedule prevented staying in one place too long as they explored deep into the vessel and met the inspiring personnel.

“It was interesting, the person whom ran the operation center was an enlisted person,” Dunagan recalled. “They said that was unusual, but it showed that with proper training and work ethic anybody can excel, I met people from all over the United States.”

The USS Abraham Lincoln has 5,000 service men and women on board during flight training, he explained, most of them around the age of 23.
"Think of a city of 5,000; all the medical and dental issues coming up, these places were packed, especially the dental place," Dunagan said.

"My kids asked if I went up and down the elevator. There are none, you have to go up and down ladders. I am not very tall, and I would have to bend over to keep from bumping my head."

Dunagan said he was impressed with the responsibilities those working on the carrier manage on a daily basis, but he also gained a new respect for the Navy, as it is the first to respond to many of the major natural disasters, about which he often teaches in the classroom.

"One thing I teach a lot about are natural hazards, and so whenever you have a major earthquake or tsunami, the Navy is the first response before the Red Cross gets there. They really try to get the carrier there, because they have the manpower and the ability to make a difference through their medical facilities," he said.

The Navy is also intertwined with much of the geological knowledge that Dunagan regularly passes on to students.

"Our understanding of tectonics was largely built upon our understanding of the geography and geology of earth's ocean basins which were extensively mapped by the U.S. Navy during the Cold War era," he explained.

Icing on the cake was departing the USS Abraham Lincoln aboard another C-2A Greyhound aircraft that catapulted off the flight deck, accelerating from zero to 130 mph in two seconds. The flight home from California was uneventful, but the memory remains for Dunagan.

"I would do an embark to any naval ship or submarine in the future and I have told the Navy so," he said.

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**UTM named All-Steinway**

The University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Music is proud to announce its official status as an All-Steinway School.

All UT Martin pianos have been replaced with Steinway pianos, making the university one of only a small handful of All-Steinway schools and conservatories in the world.

A celebration will be held at 4:30 p.m. Dec. 3 in Watkins Auditorium of the Boling University Center.

The celebration will include performances by both student and faculty pianists, the signing of new pianos and the conferring of honors by Tommy Edds, Steinway and Sons district sales manager.

Andrew Moore and Victoria Russell, piano students, will perform at the celebration. Moore will play Liszt's Etude No. 4 and Russell will play Barber's Ballade, Op. 46.

The faculty piano quartet, made up of Delana Easley, Scott Roberts, Dr. Johnathan Vest and Dr. Elaine Harriss, will perform Rachmaninoff's "Tarantella."

Moore, Russell, Easley, Roberts, Vest and Harriss will also join Michael Yandell and Harold Johnson to perform Irving Berlin's "I Love a Piano," arranged by Lyke.

Other piano duos and ensembles will perform as well. For more information, contact Harriss at 881-7411.

In other entertainment news, area music lovers are invited to a wind ensemble concert at 8:30 p.m. Dec. 1 featuring Dr. Jessie Thoman, assistant professor of music.

The concert will be held in the ballroom on the second floor of the Boling University Center on the University of Tennessee at Martin campus.

Thoman will perform Richard Strauss' Concerto No. 1, a piece Strauss wrote at age 18, which has become part of the standard French horn repertoire.

"Dr. Thoman performs every note with expression and beauty of tone that inspires our students to great musical heights," Dr. Nola Jones, director of bands, said.

"The work itself is centered around a thematic fanfare developed to showcase the instrument's glorious qualities."

The concert will also include music by Grantha, Shostakovich, Grainger and Nelson.

The performance is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Jones at 881-7403, or by email at njones@utm.edu.

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**REED Center, Chamber offer biz advice**

Erik Markin, University of Tennessee at Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center/Tennessee Small Business Development Center consultant, will help aspiring entrepreneurs and existing business owners with business advice from 9 a.m.-noon Dec. 1 at the Weakley County Chamber of Commerce in Dresden at 364-3189 or by contacting Markin at 587-7333.

For additional services offered by TSBDC, go to www.tsbdc.org.

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**Excel class offered at UTM**

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies has a course in intermediate-level Excel, which will be offered from 6-9 p.m. Dec. 6 and 8 on the UT Martin campus.

Participants will be able to create detailed examples and professional presentations and executive summaries for use in personal and business environments.

The registration fee is $95.

To register for the course or for more information, contact ECOS at 881-7082 or register online at http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecce/nondegree/home.php.
Nov. 30 is deadline to apply for 2012 Governor’s School

The deadline to apply for both the 2012 Tennessee Governor’s School for the Humanities and the 2012 Tennessee Governor’s School for the Agricultural Sciences hosted at the University of Tennessee at Martin is November 30.

The Tennessee Governor’s School for the Humanities will be held June 3-30 and successful applicants will be notified the week of February 15. The Tennessee Governor’s School for the Agricultural Sciences is slated for May 27-June 22. Successful applicants, alternates, and others will be notified of their status by mail on February 15.

The Tennessee Governor’s School for the Agricultural Sciences (TGSAS) focuses on the importance of agriculture and natural resources to state, national and global economies. Emphasis on experiential learning and laboratory exercises related to the agricultural sciences will include production agriculture, agricultural business enterprises and natural resources management.

To print an application or for more information, visit http://www.utm.edu/departments/caas/tgsas/.

Applications are available and may be requested by telephone from Suezane Speight at 731-881-7211, by email at sspeight@utm.edu, or requested by mail to TGSAS, University of Tennessee at Martin, 256 Brehm Hall, Martin, TN 38238.

Governor’s School for the Humanities examines the role of language, history, philosophy, politics and the arts in defining the relevance of humanities in the modern age. Visit http://www.utm.edu/departments/gov-school/ for an application or for more information. Questions may be addressed to Debbie Lamb at dlamb@utm.edu or 731-881-7579.

Applications also are available in high school guidance offices.

Vocal students to perform Monday at UT Martin

The University of Tennessee at Martin vocal students of Dr. Roberto Mancusi, assistant professor of music, and Dr. Amy Yeung, associate professor of music, will present a group recital at 7:30 p.m. Monday.

The event will be held in Watkins Auditorium in Boling University Center on the UT Martin campus.

Twenty-one students will perform one song each as part of an evening of entertainment.

Delana Easley of Union City, lecturer of music, and several student pianists will accompany the performers.

The performance is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Dr. Yeung at (731) 881-7408 or ayeung@utm.edu.

University Wind Ensemble to feature new horn professor

Area music lovers are invited to a wind ensemble concert at 8:30 p.m., December 1, featuring Dr. Jessie Thoman, assistant professor of music. The concert will be held in the ballroom on the second floor of the Boling University Center on the University of Tennessee at Martin campus.

Thoman will perform Richard Strauss’ Concerto No. 1, a piece Strauss wrote at age 18, which has become part of the standard French horn repertoire.

“Dr. Thoman performs every note with expression and beauty of tone that inspires our students to great musical heights,” Dr. Nola Jones, director of bands, said. “The work itself is centered around a thematic fanfare developed to showcase the instrument’s glorious qualities.”

The concert will also include music by Grantham, Shostakovich, Grainger and Nelson.

The performance is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Jones at 731-881-7403, or by email at njones@utm.edu.
Far from the green wooded landscape of west Tennessee, 11 college geology students and two faculty staked across a seemingly infinite expanse of plateau dotted with short spurts of grass. A closer view of the panorama revealed canyon-like cuts in the terrain, cuts that concealed artifacts never seen by human eyes.

It was May when the 11 geology students from the University of Tennessee at Martin arrived at the Dighton, Kan. farmland. It was hot as they assessed the dry crumby earth, a fine dust covered their shoes and the bottoms of their jeans. Sunglasses protected their eyes from the beating sun, but their eyes were constantly tilted toward the ground, searching, searching... and then there was the discovery.

"They uncovered fossils buried for millions of years, some of which are new and significant finds to science," said Michael Gibson, UT Martin professor of geology.

He was referring to the Mosasaur, a prehistoric marine lizard, and two prehistoric fish fossils from the Cretaceous period that the group found and excavated to be displayed in a museum.

"I mean, to walk along these weathered chalk layers and to find an ancient creature fossilized in time is really just awesome. To think that these specimens were from the Cretaceous period and would date at around 73 million years old; it's nuts!" said UT Martin senior geoscience major, Aaron Scott, who was part of the excavation group.

"I hear and I forget. I see and I remember..." goes the old saying by Confucius, a notion that museums usually heed with displays, images and videos as they attempt to educate visitors. Education is generally the occasion for visiting a museum or building one for that matter; but not so often are museums able to sympathize with the completing words of the phrase, "I do and I understand."

Ironically, and perhaps appropriately, the great prehistoric discovery was for and financed by none other than Discovery Park of America, the large educational and entertainment complex presently being erected in Union City. It is funded principally by the Robert E. and Jenny D. Kirkland Foundation, and upon its scheduled opening in 2013 will feature an expansive array of exhibits including an extensive natural history section, where the fossils will be featured.

The Kirklands are long-time supporters of educational pursuits in the rural region around Union City. So it's no surprise when Gibson, who has been responsible for planning the natural history exhibits, proposed the idea to the Kirkland Foundation in the fall of 2010 to finance an excavation trip for the area's college students, it was readily accepted.

"Robert and I are delighted with the results achieved by the UTM students and Dr. Gibson on their search for fossils," said Jenny Kirkland, president of the Kirkland Foundation. "Their project is a good example of the educational benefits that Discovery Park will bring to this region."

"Mr. Kirkland really wanted to be able to have some real fossil specimens," Gibson said. "So the idea I pitched to them was rather than go buy everything, why don't we go and collect some things that would then be on display, and they would own the originals."

By the following spring the trip was a go and the hunt on.

"The first day, I couldn't even see the dig site from where we stopped. We were all set up on a ridge that overlooked a lower valley, but there were plants covering most of what I could see, so I assumed the site was somewhere else," said senior geoscience major, Angela Reddick, who was also on the excavation trip.

Gibson chose the site in Kansas, rented by Triebold Paleontology Inc., for its reputation as a large fossil hot spot. Still, the first two days of the dig were slow as the students only came across small insignificant fossils.

"I believe it was on the third day we were out there, everyone was starting to feel a little let down because we hadn't found very much," Reddick said. She then described the excitement she felt when she found out that other members of her group found the first large specimen, a huge fish.

"It was so exciting then, I just wanted to be a part of digging it out."

Scott, however, was lucky enough to be one that originally spotted a large fossil.

"As I was topping a rise in the chalk I saw jaws sticking out of the ground, called over our group leader, and we began the excavation process on what would turn out to be a Cimolichthys fish," he said.

The Cimolichthys fossil was not one of the two fish that were excavated, but it will be excavated next year, Gibson clarified.

The students were then able to apply various methods of excavation to dig out the other three fossils, first taking GPS coordinates, and removing sediment from the top of the specimens with fine whisk brushes, xacto knives and dental pick type instruments. They then dug out the sediment encasing the specimens and prepared them for transportation with a process called jacketing.

The three fossils are worth roughly $250,000 in their jacketed form but will be worth more after they are finally prepped, which is the second part of the project. In March of 2013, Discovery Park will be paying for several of the same geology students to fly to Triebold's laboratory in Colorado to finish readying the fossil samples.

"A vast majority of paleontologists will go through
The large fossils will be but a small part of the vast Natural History Gallery of Discovery Park, that will showcase roughly 4 1/2 billion years of geologic past. The gallery will include a suspended 42-foot replica of the Mosasaur reptile fossil that the students discovered as well as several dinosaurs, including an 80-foot Apatosaurus and a Tyrannosaurus rex; plus, displays of rocks, minerals and gems.

“The gallery will be a big ‘walk through time,’ which goes from the earliest life forms on earth up to where we are today,” Gibson said, adding that he recently returned from a trip to the Smithsonian’s Natural History Museum in Washington, D.C. where he negotiated the loaning of a 30,000 year old fossilized pig for display at Discovery Park that was originally found outside of Paducah, Kentucky.

The educational benefits of Discovery Park will be immeasurable, but “I do and I understand,” really comes into play for UT Martin students across a variety of majors who will be reaping the benefits from the relationship between their university and the museum.

Three broadcasting students from UT Martin’s communications program, with broadcasting instructor, Rodney Freed, accompanied the geology students on the dig to film a documentary of the discovery. The film may be featured in the museum, and there could be more opportunities for similar fieldwork in the future.

Later in the museum’s development, Gibson added, it will move into a phase that includes designing curriculum for schools and the public. This will highly involve the science, history and education departments.

“We hope to find many ways for UTM and Discovery Park to collaborate for the benefit of both organizations and especially for the benefit of the thousands of people who will visit Discovery Park,” Kirkland said.

If the amount of education it has offered nearly two years before its opening is any indication, Discovery Park should impress. But at this point, 11 geology students are still reeling.

“The difference of a trip like this and a classroom experience, it is huge,” Scott said.

Dresden Enterprise, Dresden, Tennessee, Wednesday, November 23, 2011

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Student Members of the American Chemical Society presented Dr. Albert Wiley with an IYC commemorative T-shirt and an appreciation plaque after his address on the UT Martin campus, October 27. Pictured (left to right): Lauren White, Bethany Aden, Christy Lee, IYC project co-director Jhalak Patel, Kristin Brooks, Brandon Gindt, Wiley, Eric Bryuns, SMACS president Corey Jones, IYC project co-director Chelsea Peeler, Sam Moran, Amber Watson, Honors Programs director Dr. Lionel Crews, Heather Vascovsky, Sarah Maxey, HeatherStrecker, Layla Gargus, Krishna Patel, Stephanie Gourley, and SMACS advisor Dr. S. K. Airee.

SMACS hosts Academic Speaker at UT Martin

Under auspices of an International Year of Chemistry grant project, the Student Members of the American Chemical Society (SMACS) of the University of Tennessee at Martin and the University Academic Speakers program co-hosted the medical/technical director, Dr. Albert Wiley, of the Radiation Emergency Assistance Center/Training Site (REAC/TS) at Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU), on October 27.

Wiley, head of the World Health Organization Collaborating Center at Oak Ridge, presented a seminar to a large audience at Watkins Auditorium on the safety protocols of hazardous nuclear radiation incidents. He also conducted a workshop for honors students.
Stewart receives Maloan Outstanding UT Martin Student Employee Award

The Fall 2011 Beth Maloan Outstanding UT Martin Student Employee Award recently was presented to Hannah Paige Stewart, undergraduate faculty assistant. Stewart is a junior communications major and has been employed for 1 1/2 years at the Margaret N. Perry Children's Center. She is a native of Newbern.

Stewart works as part of a teaching team in a preschool classroom, where she is responsible for planning and implementing activities, supervising the classroom and outside play area, being a positive role model for the children and practicum teachers and greeting parents and keeping them informed about their child's daily performance.

"Hannah is one of those people that can make a dull day brighter. She has such a positive attitude and is always willing to help," said Leanne Snider, Stewart's supervisor. "She is very trustworthy and respectful of our children and their families. I can always count on Hannah to go above and beyond what is expected and without constant reminders."

The award, given every fall and spring semester, is a memorial for Beth Maloan, longtime UT Martin director of budgeting and payroll, who during her years of service, was a strong advocate for student employment.

Deadline to apply for 2012 Governor’s Schools nears

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Applications also are available in high school guidance offices.

University choirs to present night of free entertainment

The University Singers and the New Pacer Singers will present their combined fall concert at 3:00 p.m., December 4. The concert will be in the Duncan Ballroom on the second floor of the Boling University Center on the University of Tennessee at Martin campus.

The ensembles will perform a variety of works, including the "Christmas Motets" by Francis Poulenc. Faculty members Elwood Doss, of Martin, and three music students, Nick Gatlin, a junior from Hickman County; Eric Lipford, a senior from Alamo; and Darrin Dandridge, a senior from Hickory Valley, will serve as guest conductors.

The University Singers group is UT Martin’s largest vocal ensemble and is open to any student wishing to participate in a choral group. The New Pacer Singers is an audition-only group of 16 students that serve as the featured performers at a variety of Alumni Association functions throughout the year.

The concert is free and open to the public.
Learn to create table arrangements in time for the holidays

Holiday centerpieces will be quick and easy for those who complete a Christmas table arrangement course offered by the University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies. The one-night course is scheduled for 6:30-8:30 p.m., December 6, on the UT Martin campus.

The course will focus on the creation of Christmas centerpieces and participants will leave with a completed project to use at home or give as a gift. Lauren Armbruster will instruct the class, exploring basic concepts and techniques of floral arrangement while helping students develop personal flourish and creativity. Armbruster will also cover flower placement, as well as the needed materials and how to use them.

Registration is $45 plus a fee for supplies, payable to the instructor on the night of the class. The supply fee is $43, which includes an arrangement container, silk flowers, Christmas greens, berries or filler, glue, wire and any other materials needed.

Get business advice December 1

Erik Markin, University of Tennessee at Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center/Tennessee Small Business Development Center consultant, will help aspiring entrepreneurs and existing business owners with business advice from 9:00 a.m.-noon, December 1, at the Weakley County Chamber of Commerce in Dresden.

Appointments can be made by contacting the Weakley County Chamber of Commerce in Dresden at 731-364-3189 or by contacting Markin at 731-587-7333. For additional services offered by TSBDC, go to www.tsbdc.org.

Santa’s Village continues good work in 27th year celebration

The legacy of Santa’s Village can be measured in the amount of food and toys that have been collected and donated to service agencies through its 26 years. Those donations, totaling $933,462, have been distributed to area residents who need them.

Santa’s Village will mark its 27th anniversary, Dec. 8-11, continuing that tradition and also continuing to provide four days of family holiday entertainment. To date, 239,256 people have attended Santa’s Village.

The fantasyland provides the sights, sounds and fun of Christmas. It is staged each year at the Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Slated for 6-9 p.m., Dec. 8-9; 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Dec. 10; and 1-5 p.m., Dec. 11, the event will return to the “Enchanted Forest” theme in scenes depicting the holidays. Also featured will be a giant Christmas tree, wagon rides on Friday through Sunday, MTD model train display, children’s rides and vendor booths. Twenty hours of continuous local entertainment and a petting farm will add to the festivities. Doors open at 6 p.m., Dec. 8. Admission is a suggested donation of $5 and non-perishable foods and/or toys.

Service agencies receiving food and toys collected at Santa’s Village this year include: Chimes for Charity, We Care Ministries, WTN Disaster Services, Santa’s Helpers, Healthy Start NW Region and Northwest Tennessee Economic Development Council.

Co-sponsors for the event are the City of Martin and UT Martin. Additional sponsors of the event include: First State, MTD Products, Tyson Foods, Volunteer Community Hospital and McDonald’s. As part of the event each year, WCMT sponsors a can caravan for canned food donations collected at the schools.

“We are fortunate to have sponsors who contribute money, as well as volunteers who spend their time and effort helping in this event,” said Kim Kirby, Martin Parks and Recreation Department program director. “We are proud to provide a free holiday event, while helping those in need.”

Kirby expressed thanks to the service agencies that use the bounty of food and toys from Santa’s Village to benefit families in the region at holiday time and, in some cases, throughout the year.

For more information about Santa’s Village, contact Martin Parks and Recreation Department at 731-587-6784.

Crockett Policy Institute, UTM to sponsor Renewable Energy and Jobs Forum

The Crockett Policy Institute and UT Martin are co-hosting a forum entitled, “Renewable Energy and Jobs Creation in Northwest Tennessee” at the Humanities Auditorium on the UT Martin campus on Tuesday, November 29th, from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m.

“At a time when we’re seeing far too many jobs leaving the area, it’s time for us to start a discussion about new opportunities for job creation,” said LiGen John Castellaw, president of the Crockett Policy Institute. “This forum will bring together a panel of energy, job, and policy experts capable of starting the discussion and turning that discussion into action.”

The forum will be moderated by Dr. Jim Byford, the retired dean of UT Martin’s College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences. Panelists include: Andrew Holand, Senior Fellow for Energy and Climate with the American Security Project; Dr. Joseph Mehlich, professor of agricultural economics at UT Martin, Tennessee Sen. Roy Herron, Tennessee Rep. Andy Holt, and Pat Riley, General Manager of the Gibson County Utility District.

“You hear a lot about renewable energy investment at the national level, but you don’t hear much about it at the local level,” said Castellaw, a retired Marine and Crockett County native.

“Right now, there are companies right here in west Tennessee that are exploring new ways of creating and delivering energy. Their innovation can help us solve the national problems related to our dependence on foreign oil while also addressing local unemployment problems.”
University Gospel Choir to perform for the public on December 1

Martin community members are invited to begin the month of December with a night of gospel music performed by the University of Tennessee at Martin collegiate gospel choir. The concert will begin at 7:00 p.m., December 1, at the Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Martin.

The choir will perform a variety of musical selections, including "I Believe," by James Fortune; "FIYA, Anthem of Praise," by Richard Smallwood; "You Can't Hurry God," by Dorinda Clark-Cole; and "God is Great," by Ricky Dillard.

The performance will feature several student soloists and musicians, including Harold Johnson and Darius Dandridge, both senior music education majors, playing keyboards, and Josh Brewster, a sophomore pre-physical therapy major, on the drums.

The UT Martin gospel choir is under the direction of Alvin J. Summers, assisted by Mykia Campbell.

Sigma Alpha Iota to present fall musicale on November 29

The ladies of the music fraternity Sigma Alpha Iota (SAI), Epsilon Iota chapter, at the University of Tennessee at Martin, will present their annual fall musicale at 7:30 p.m., November 29, at the Trinity Presbyterian Church in Martin.

SAI members will present a variety of vocal performances, including solos, small groups and the SAI choir. Instrumental pieces are also on the program, including works for piano, clarinet quartet, vibraphone and the UT Martin clarinet choir.

The SAI choir will perform traditional works from the SAI songbook, including "The Prayer of SAI," "Pan in Canon," "Benediction" and the "SAI Chorale," as well as "For the Beauty of the Earth" by John Rutter.

Sigma Alpha Iota (SAI) is a fraternity for young women with a passion for music. The ladies of the Epsilon Iota chapter have been active on the UT Martin campus for 42 years.

The performance is free and open to the public.

Trinity Presbyterian Church is located at 145 Hannings Lane in Martin.

For more information, contact Dr. Elaine Harris, chair of the Department of Music, at 731-881-7411.
UTM engineering students design and create mobile apps

Engineering students at the University of Tennessee at Martin are breaking ground on mobile app design.

Dr. Somsak Sukittanon, associate professor of engineering, said UT Martin students have made over 20 mobile applications now available for both Android and Apple products.

"Currently, students can produce 20-30 apps per year, from the class assignments. We are trying to increase the number of downloads to 100,000 in the near future," Sukittanon said.

The student-created apps are available to download for free and include seven educational apps for biology, engineering and mathematics. For example, using the Anatomy Tutor app students can practice several biology subjects when studying for exams.

To date, the apps have been downloaded over 20,000 times, over 50 percent of which were downloaded in foreign countries such as the UK, China, Canada, Italy and Russia. The download peak is 700 per day.

"This is a new kind of learning for our students. First, they are being prepared for cutting-edge careers. Second, their results become beneficial to people outside the university. But the most important aspect of app design is to make education fun and enjoyable. Students no longer use only pen and paper but also use a variety of tools to complete projects," Sukittanon said.

The engineering students have designed the apps as part of class homework, final projects and senior design projects.

Senior engineering major Jesse Cliff designed a ball-bouncing game that integrates physics theory on momentum to create realistic movement.

"Working on mobile apps is tremendously fun. When I received the assignment in class I wanted to make it perfect, because I know the whole world will be able to see it later. UTM has all the resources; the only thing that is going to limit what you can create is your imagination," Cliff said.

Ezra Nance, a sophomore engineering student from Martin, made a Blackjack game mobile app, the highest downloaded of the UTM apps to date.

"It is nice to be involved with this effort. This UTM course has offered the experience that I expect to gain from a real-working job environment," Nance said.

Senior engineering major Josh Potts focuses on Android applications. His apps have over 10,000 combined downloads.

"Mobile technology is the future. In my work I've found or created technology that is used for everything from education to home security," Potts said.

Other apps include Prime Billion, made by Thomas Hunt. It helps find any prime number up to 1 billion. Blackjack and Craps make use of probability to create casino simulation games.

To download the apps, go to app the store on iPhone/iPod/iPad and search the keywords, "University of Tennessee at Martin."

UT Martin gospel choir to perform

The community is invited to begin the month of December with a night of gospel music performed by the University of Tennessee at Martin collegiate gospel choir.

The concert will begin at 7 p.m. Dec. 1 at Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church at 120 South St. in Martin.

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The performance will feature several student soloists and musicians, including Harold Johnson and Darius Dandridge, both senior music education majors, playing keyboards, and Josh Brewster, a sophomore pre-physical therapy major, on the drums.

"The UT Martin gospel choir is under the direction of Alvin J. Summers, assisted by Mykia Campbell.

The performance is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Campbell at (731) 881-7869 or by email at mthoma16@utm.edu.
Hip hop and ballet at Rose Hill Middle School

Hip hop dancer Winston Murphy and ballet dancer Megan Riley, a UT Martin and former Rose Hill Middle School student, demonstrate to Mona Lisa Lanier's dance class the similarities of the two styles of dance on Tuesday at Rose Hill.
Maloan student award presented to UTM junior

The Fall 2011 Beth Maloan Outstanding UT Martin Student Employee Award recently was presented to Hannah Paige Stewart, undergraduate faculty assistant who is a native of Newbern.

She is a junior communications major and has been employed for 1 1/2 years at the Margaret N. Perry Children's Center.

Ms. Stewart works as part of a teaching team in a preschool classroom, where she is responsible for planning and implementing activities, supervising the classroom and outside play area, being a positive role model for the children and practicing teachers and greeting parents and keeping them informed about their child's daily performance.

"Hannah is one of those people that can make a dull day brighter. She has such a positive attitude and is always willing to help," said Leanne Snider, her supervisor. "She is very trustworthy and respectful of our children and their families. I can always count on Hannah to go above and beyond what is expected and without constant reminders."

The award, given every fall and spring semester, is a memorial for Beth Maloan, longtime UT Martin director of budgeting and payroll, who during her years of service, was a strong advocate for student employment. Mrs. Maloan had a vision that more positions would be developed on campus that would challenge students and make them significant contributors to the university's mission.

Recipients of the award exemplify strong work ethic and commitment to the university and they receive a $1,000 cash award, an engraved plaque and a nameplate on the perpetual plaque in a place of honor in Boling University Center.

Contributions to the scholarship award may be made through payroll deduction by employees of UT Martin or by sending a contribution to the Office of Development at UT Martin.

THE WEAKLEY COUNTY PRESS
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2011

UT Martin teacher's biography penned

AP – The archivist at the University of Tennessee at Martin has published a biography of a longtime composition teacher at the school.

Richard Saunders, associate professor of library science and curator at UT Martin, has written "Never Been Rich." It's about Harry Harrison Kroll, who taught writing composition from 1934 to 1958. According to a news release from the university, Kroll wrote more than 900 published stories.

The biography is based mostly on countless letters to family, colleagues and former students. Saunders said Kroll taught virtually every student on campus before 1958 and his colorful personality made him one of the most popular professors at the school.

Jan 2-11, 2012
The Tennessee Department of Aeronautics, the Everett-Stewart Regional Airport and UT Martin are partnering to host an art competition for children and young adults from Obion and Weakley counties. The deadline to enter is 4 p.m. Dec. 15.

There are three age categories for participation: 6-9, 10-13 and 14-17. All children in the two counties are eligible to participate. Winners in each of the three categories will be sent on to Nashville for the state competition.

The theme for the competition is "Silent Flight" and specific definitions and details can be found on the entry form.

To obtain an entry form, contact Jo Ann Speer at the Everett-Stewart Regional Airport at 885-1221 or ESRA@estewartregionalairport.us. An opening reception will be held Jan. 6, 2012 from 5-6:30 p.m. The exhibition will be open to the public from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.
EMPTY BOWLS FILL THE GAP

University of Tennessee at Martin professor David McBeth (center) and his students Kylee Dotson (left) and Monica Stepp created nearly 500 bowls for the annual Empty Bowls Supper held at UTM’s Interfaith Student Center Thursday evening. Other students instrumental in creating bowls were Beckye Norton, Stephen Crosby and Melissa Michel. The event raised close to $2,500 for We Care Ministries. Rev. Jolinne Balentine-Downey orchestrated the event and announced there were more students who attended than in previous years and the event boasted more donations of soup than ever. The ceramic bowls can be purchased for $10 at The Arts Co-op on Lindell Street in downtown Martin Thursday through Saturday. All proceeds benefit the food pantry of We Care Ministries.

Photo by April Merritts, UT Martin student and visual arts major

Artist spotlight: Lane Last

Lane Last is a computer artist and painter based in Martin. He holds an MFA and a BS – Arts degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with primary concentrations in painting, video and new media, though he has worked in film production, performance art, installation/non-static forms and printmaking. Last has been exhibiting his animations and media works in international venues and competitions for the past ten years. Last has also been exhibiting his paintings in international, national, and regional museums and galleries for the past 22 years. Last’s works can be found in public and private collections across the U.S., Korea, Italy and Japan.
May Wheeler, a senior at Madison Academic High School, and her mother, Andrea Wheeler, attended the UT Martin Honors Preview Day, Oct. 29, at the University of Tennessee Martin. Students and family members attending the event toured the campus and learned about the university's Honors Programs. The event closed with an address by UT Martin graduate Jennifer Horbelt, evening news anchor for WPSD Local 6 in Paducah, Ky.

HIGH FLYERS — Several members of Dr. Nancy Sonleitner's social problems class and fraternity members volunteered to help out with the Cornfest and Everett-Stewart Regional Airport's Airport Extravaganza Sept. 10-11. The students helped with taking up tickets, cooking, selling concessions and T-shirts and patrolling inflatables in addition to several other things. On Oct. 18, an appreciation pizza party was held for the volunteers and just a few of the honorees included (front, from left) Mark Harris, Taner Swinea, airport manager Jo Ann Speer, commercial sales manager Kerry Speer, Garret Cote, (back, from left) Michael Bequiristain, Terrance Phifer, Kyle Williams, Eric Staggs and Robert Burrow.
Looking for a Volunteer: Fraternities, class members assist with local event

Most of the time, when a person needs help, all he or she need do is ask. Volunteers exist around each and every corn and, most of the time, are able to fill a standard-sized college classroom.

This is exactly what "volunteer-minded" Sharyn Hendrix discovered when she chose to address three of Dr. Nancy Sonleitner's social problems classes in August. The response was immediate and unanimous. Class members and several members of the Sigma Chi and Pike fraternities jumped at the chance and, on Sept. 10-11, they were at the Airport Extravaganza at Everett-Stewart Regional Airport taking up tickets, running the snow cone machine, patrolling inflatables and helping in any way possible.

"We needed volunteers," Hendrix said. "A few years ago, in 2006, Weakley County and Obion County joined together in this airport and the name was changed. A seven-member board was selected and the work began. It did not take long to realize the impact that this 'joint venture' would have on the ability to acquire grants and receive recognition throughout the state."

Hendrix serves as the volunteer/vendor coordinator for the airport and added, "With the airport being a front door to the community and with my being a big believer in volunteerism, I chose to speak to Nancy's classes to see if I could get any of them to help out."

Twenty-six students and 22 fraternity members answered the call.

"The social problems class is a course that combines in-class academic learning with students volunteering in the community to obtain a real-life experience of the concepts taught in the class," Sonleitner said. "Students are required to provide 10 hours of volunteer service throughout the semester. The number of students enrolled in the four sections offered in the fall semester is greater than 200, totaling more than 2,000 hours of volunteer service within the community."

"In order to demonstrate the connections students are making between lectures, course work and the realities of the community, students must reflect on their learning in the context of their volunteer work. This is accomplished through a guided reflection that asks students to identify the social problem present in their volunteer experience and how they connect that social problem to their academic experience. Student reflections are often highly introspective, insightful and poignant in their understanding of the ramifications of specific social problems on individuals and families in the community and in the larger society," she added. "Frequently, the requirement that students volunteer in the community results in a lifelong commitment to civic engagement and contributing their skills and talents to making life better for others."

Hendrix had every confidence in their enthusiasm and abilities and the students never quit. They succeeded in recruiting 22 children for Reading Railroad in Obion County, helped in the V.I.P. tent, cooked, sold concessions and T-shirts, took up tickets, ran the snow cone machine and patrolled the inflatables.

"If it hadn't been for these volunteers, we couldn't have had such a success with this event as we did," airport manager Jo Ann Speer said. Later on, after the event, the students received an extra treat in the form of a pizza party. At that time, they were let in on how much their contributions truly meant, especially for cystic fibrosis. "Jo Ann gave a talk about the disease and how, with their volunteering, they'd helped with 'Kick CF,' the nationwide program that challenges college students to raise funds and awareness for the disease," Hendrix said. "It was very emotional and eye opening. They'd helped with an event and a cause."

Several students wrote letters about their experiences and the fraternities pledged more help on the spot. Vendors offered praise for the volunteers.

"UTM prides itself on getting out into the community to help and this is a fun event," Hendrix said. "I told the group, 'You never know who's watching you. You never know who you might impress to do something like this. We can do this.'"

Class members who helped included Hunter Smith, Chaz Edwards, Matt Melton, Forrester M. Wall, Bob Baker, Nicholas Michaels, Anthony Young, Trey Preuett, David Foley, Matt Wright, Chambray Callicott, Marcia Mayes, Patricia Diming, Brittany Payne, Kimberly Foley, Charli Jent, Krysten Harris, Amanda Greer, Megan Spellings, Jane Adele Scott, James Payne, Alexandria Todd, Kimberly Woods, Ashley Cunningham and Dylan Gillespie. Fraternity members who volunteered included Jamye Freeman, Luke Lemons, Keith Malm, Josh Horton, Jeremy Bond, Justin Burns, Lee French, Ryan Williams, Colton Jones, Joely Moore, Patrick James, Terrance Phifer, Jacob Schnebly, Mark Harris, Tanner Swan, Garret Cote, Michael Bequiristain, Kyle Williams, Eric Staggs and Robert Burrow.

In a letter, Cunningham spoke of her time helping with the Reading Railroad booth.

"I was assigned to work the Reading Railroad, a program that I was in as a child. As soon as the gates opened, the children began to come in handfuls at a time," she said. "As the crowds came, the show began. It was amazing to see such a large object move so gracefully through the air. Each plane moved higher and faster than the last and just left me feeling proud that such amazing people could work so hard for such a great cause. This event would do such wonderful things for so many people in need. It was a lot of fun and amazing to be a part of."

Sigma Chi fraternity also wrote a letter of appreciation in being allowed to be part of such an event.
The Messenger, Union City, Tennessee, Monday, November 28 2011

A portion of the proceeds went towards the research and awareness of cystic fibrosis, a charity we are proud to support. The time we spent working presented our brothers the opportunity to exercise leadership, teamwork and responsibility as well as giving us the privilege of getting our chapter more involved in the community,” the letter read.

“I just can’t say enough about how much this helped,” Hendrix said. “I started taking up money on the street as a volunteer and I’m now helping with this event. This is something I look forward to every year and I look forward to the potential for more and more volunteers to join in.”

THE WEAKLEY COUNTY PRESS

UT Martin planning celebration

On Saturday, the University of Tennessee at Martin will celebrate the completion of a multi-year project positioning it as one of only 135 campuses worldwide known as All-Steinway Schools.

This achievement highlights UT Martin’s commitment to excellence by continuing to provide its students and faculty with the finest resources available.

The formal celebration will take place at 4:30 p.m. in Watkins Auditorium located in the Boling University Center.

For more information on the All-Steinway School celebration or to learn how to be a supporter of UT Martin and their All-Steinway School Initiative, contact the Office of Development at development@utm.edu or 881-7620.

Carroll County Chamber
Makes It Easy
to Get Business
Advice on
December 13

MARTIN – Erik Markin, University of Tennessee at Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center/Tennessee Small Business Development Center consultant, will help aspiring entrepreneurs and existing business owners with business advice from 1-4:30 p.m., December 13, at the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce in Huntingdon.

Markin recently joined the TSBDC after spending five years in the financial industry and owning and operating two small businesses. He will be giving advice about business planning, financing options, marketing, customer service, cash flow and other issues. The consultations are one-on-one, confidential and free.

Appointments can be made by contacting the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce in Huntingdon at 731-986-4664 or by contacting Markin at 731-987-7333. For additional services offered by TSBDC, go to www.tsbdc.org.

THE WEAKLEY COUNTY PRESS TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2011

The McKenzie Banner, McKenzie, Tennessee, Tuesday, November 29, 2011
ANNUAL SCIENCE BOWL – Westview High School participated in the recent 31st annual High School Science Bowl held at UT Martin. Five schools participated in the afternoon bowl games and written test competitions hosted by the Student Members of the American Chemical Society (SMACS). On hand for the event were (front, from left) Dr. S. K. Airee, SMACS faculty advisor; Dr. Ann Gathers, associate professor of biology and Science Bowl Faculty; Chase Thweatt; Bryelle White; Tranequa Harrell; Annabelle Cormia; Rachel Samuel; Samantha Daily; Saba Getaneh. (back, from left), Gilbert J. Forgays, SMACS member; Stephanie R. Gourley, SMACS member; Austin Emerson; Abraham Haddad; Alex Crosser; Melissa Darroch; Kim Simmons, Westview teacher; Jessica Hightower, Westview teacher; and Lee A. Elliott; Science Bowl coordinator.

STUDENT ORGANIZERS – The University of Tennessee at Martin Student Members of the American Chemical Society (SMACS) recently held the 31st annual High School Science Bowl on the UT Martin campus. High school students competed in a science quiz bowl and took written science tests. SMACS student organizers are (front, from left) Brandon P. Gindt, Amber L. Watson, Paul J. Jones, Lee A. Elliott, Jhalak Patel, Aaron D. Crump, Gilbert J. Forgays, Chelsea Peeler, (back, from left), Heather Vacovsky, Heather Streckert, Christy L. Lee, Krishna V. Patel, Dr. S. K. Airee, Stephanie R. Gourley, Layla R. Gargus, Sarah A. Griffin, Lauren H. White, Bethany M. Aden, Becky Lee. Not pictured were Corey Jones, Sarah Maxey and Jareth Embrey.
Santa's Village features entertainment

The 27th annual event is gearing up for Dec. 8-11 at the Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex on the campus of UT Martin. Community members are encouraged to bring their children for all the fun and excitement of The Enchanted Forest, a petting farm, children's rides, a visit with Santa, the model train display, horse-drawn wagon rides and live entertainment.

Admission is free, but a $5 toy or non-perishable canned good donation will be appreciated.

All proceeds from Santa's Village will go to help less fortunate families. For more information contact the department at 587-6784.

Live entertainment will be offered by (subject to change):

Dec. 8
- 6 p.m. – Tabitha Dawson, vocal
- 6:30 p.m. – Larry Holder, vocal/guitar
- 7 p.m. – Carla Field, Ed Knight and Elaine Knight, violin/accordion
- 7:30 p.m. – Tassi Rene’

Dec. 9
- 5:45 p.m. – Joy Jones and Brian McWherter, vocal
- 6 p.m. – Rose Brawner, piano
- 7 p.m. – Linda Ramsey, vocal
- 8:30 p.m. – Laura Poge, guitar/vocal
- 8:45 p.m. – Rose Brawner, piano
- 10:45 a.m. – Madison Brown, piano and Carson Scott, vocal

Dec. 10
- 7 p.m. – Jamie Worrell, vocal
- 8 p.m. – Charles and Debbie Ross, vocal
- 10:45 a.m. – Madison Brown, piano and Carson Scott, vocal

SHINING STAR – Buddy Elgin, a new employee of the Marion Parks and Recreation Department, earns his stripes by hanging the lights on the giant Christmas tree standing at one end of Santa's Village. Photo by Sara Rachels

Village From Page 1
- 6 p.m. – Tara Elam, vocal
- 7 p.m. – Whitley Southard, Ashley Mitchell and Lindsey Wade
- 8 p.m. – Jonathan McDowell, guitar/vocal
- 8:45 p.m. – Rose Brawner, vocal
- 9 p.m. – Dianna Brawner, piano
- 11 p.m. – Brandon Brawner, guitar/vocal

Dec. 11
- 12:45 p.m. – Jason Batchelor, piano
- 1 p.m. – Rose Brawner, vocal
- 3:30 p.m. – Michael Brewer, vocal
- 4:30 p.m. – Janice Murray, vocal
- 6 p.m. – Austin Emmerson, piano
- 6:30 p.m. – Oliver's Chapel Presbyterian Church
- 7:30 p.m. – Lexie Knott, guitar/vocal
- 7:30 p.m. – Tabitha Dawson, vocal
- 8 p.m. – Jonathan McDowell, guitar/vocal
- 8:45 p.m. – Rose Brawner, piano
- 9:15 p.m. – Madison Brown, piano and Carson Scott, vocal

See Village, Page 10
West TN students get gift of education from USDA

Jackson — In the spirit of giving during the holiday season, USDA Rural Development (RD) gave 14 students in West Tennessee the opportunity to make a difference in their communities. In partnership with the Ned McWherter Center for Rural Development, these students will receive training to become the next generation of leaders in rural America.

RD state director Bobby Goode joined President of the Ned McWherter Center, State Sen. Roy Herron Nov. 17, to announce federal support for the Center’s 2011-12 leadership class.

The Rural Business Enterprise Grant of $25,000 will be matched by $25,000 in contributions from the center to train West Tennessee college students in public service and leadership, ultimately improving the economic health of the communities they call home.

“The McWherter Scholars are among West Tennessee’s very best students and our future leaders,” said Herron. “Every dollar we invest in their education will repay our region multifold.”

Created in 2008, the Ned McWherter Center for Rural Development selects a small group of college students each year to participate in a demanding leadership program consisting of team building activities culminating in a group project geared to help rural areas overcome economic issues and educate.

Participants must have a 3.5 grade point average, be a West Tennessee native, attend a college in West Tennessee and have a strong desire for public service.

“It is an honor for my family to be associated with such an outstanding program that develops the future leaders of our state,” said Mike R. McWherter, son of the late Ned McWherter.

See Gift, Page 4

UT Martin choirs to present night of free entertainment

The University Singers and the New Pacer Singers from the University of Tennessee at Martin will present their combined fall concert at 3 p.m. Sunday.

The concert will be held in the Duncan Ballroom in Boling University Center on campus.

The ensembles will perform a variety of works, including the “Christmas Motets” by Francis Poulenc. Faculty member Elwood Doss of Martin and three music students — Nick Gatlin, a junior from Hickman County; Eric Lipford, a senior from Alamo; and Darrius Dandridge, a senior from Hickory Valley — will serve as guest conductors.

The University Singers, open to any student wishing to participate in a choral group, and the New Pacer Singers, an audition-only group of 16 students, are both under the primary direction of Dr. Mark Simmons, associate professor of music.

The concert is free and open to the public.

Gift

From Page 1

“The center’s administration understands the importance of education and training in the continued efforts to improve the lives of Tennesseans and with their help, the McWherter Scholars Program will brighten the future of Tennessee for years to come.”

“Governor McWherter was a visionary leader who saw the value in educating the future leaders of this country,” said Goode. “The Ned McWherter Center is his legacy, providing opportunity and challenge to the students ultimately affecting our rural communities in a positive way.”

The students participating in the Fall 2011 class are Whitney Pirtle of Enville, Alyssa Shirley of Rame, Conor Luck of Halls, Merri Beth Byrd of Mason, Jonathan Nadasky of Milan, Kirby Lewis of Lexington, Abbie Fuqua of Martin, Colby Prosser of Henry, Kimberly Jeffries of Dyersburg, Rodney Stanback, Jr. of Jackson, Ernicka Willis of Jackson, Cishley Harper of Humboldt, Bryant Stewart of Jackson and Nicholas Grayson of Jackson.

The schools represented by this class of scholars include Freed-Hardeman, Dyersburg State Community College, Union University, University of Tennessee Martin, Bethel and Lane. Others participating in the event included Sen. Lamar Alexander’s Representative Matt Varino, Rep. Stephen Fincher’s Representative Scott Golden, State Rep. Craig Fitzhugh, Mike McWherter, RD area director Harriet Cannon and RD area specialist Van Wylie.

Rural Development’s rural business grant programs provide assistance to local governments and non-profit organizations that assist small businesses, develop local business infrastructure, provide job training, conduct feasibility studies or provide technical assistance to businesses and community leaders.

For more information on Rural Development programs available in West Tennessee contact the Rural Development Area Office in Union City at 731-885-6480 ext. 4, toll free at 800-342-3149 ext. 1497 or online at www.rurdev.usda.gov/tn.

The Messenger, Union City, Tennessee, Wednesday, November 30, 2011
An article co-authored by a University of Tennessee at Martin education professor is included in a new book titled "Considerations on Educational Technology Integration: The Best of JRTE." Dr. Glenda Rakes is the primary author of the chapter titled "The Influence of Teachers' Technology Use on Instructional Practices" that appears in the book released in October.

The Journal of Research on Technology in Education explores topics about the use of technology to improve educational practices. The book summary featured on the International Society for Technology in Education website notes that technology has not created the "wholesale educational reform" expected by many experts. Editor Lynne Schrum suggests in the book that a new research agenda is needed, "one that connects educators and researchers."

The study highlighted in Rakes' article "investigated the relationship between technology use and skills" and subsequent use of technology in the classroom among rural teachers. The article co-authors were Dr. Valerie Fields, assistant professor at South Carolina State University, and Dr. Karel Dunn, assistant professor of educational statistics and research methods at the University of Arkansas. Dunn is Rakes' daughter, who completed work on the study while a doctoral student at the University of Memphis.

Rakes, author and co-author of numerous articles about educational technology, joined the UT Martin faculty in 2002. She earned bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Memphis.
UTM professor publishes first biography on Tennessee’s most published author

Only two people in history have received the honor of having their portrait commissioned by the University of Tennessee at Martin student body. The first was Harry Harrison Kroll.

“Almost any student, any alum, that went to school before 1958 has a Mr. Kroll story,” said Richard Saunders, associate professor of library science and curator and archivist at UT Martin. “He taught virtually every student who came through here.”

Saunders recognized Kroll’s importance to not only the past of UT Martin, but literature history. After extensive research he took it upon himself to publish the first ever biography on the former composition teacher at UT Martin, cementing the narrative of his life and work in American history. Saunders’ book, “Never Been Rich” was released in September.

The man had a dumpy build and a left shoulder damaged by polio as an infant. The motion of his arm was limited, a fact he often tried to conceal. Many photographs show him casually holding it in front of or behind him. Otherwise his appearance was average for a man in his ‘60s, white hair and glasses. However, Kroll is Tennessee’s most published author, with over 900 published stories. He taught writing composition at UT Martin from 1934-1958, during which time his eclectic and blunt personality gained him the status as one of the most popular professors on campus.

“He was an enormously colorful character, almost vulgar I have to admit,” Saunders said. “When you have a teacher that has a commissioned portrait by the entire student body organization, that says something about their relevance, their importance, their place, I guess, on campus and how they’re regarded.”

In his book, Saunders dissects the minutest details of the author’s life, many of them pieced together from countless letters to family, colleagues and former students. Kroll’s early life was that of the average rural child in poverty in Indiana, and became that of Tennessee when his family was in the process of moving to Alabama and their buggy broke down irreparably in Dyersburg. He claimed to have never been to school before the age of 19, although Saunders does question this assertion in “Never Been Rich.”

It was not until the age of 19 that Kroll ever fathomed getting an education, according to the book. It was while traveling the countryside as a tramp photographer that he fell for the small town schoolteacher, Nettie Heard.

“It was then he realized that there was absolutely no future in being a tramp photographer and took himself to school,” Saunders said.

The rest is history. Kroll attended George Peabody College for Teachers, married Heard, went on to teach famous authors such as Jessie Stuart and Don West at Lincoln Memorial University, and had a successful career as a writer. His novel, “The Cabin in the Cotton,” was even made into a motion picture starring famed actress, Bette Davis. He spent his remaining days in Martin after retiring from UT Martin.

Saunders, originally from Oregon, became more familiar with Kroll after 2000 when he left his job as a production manager in the publishing industry to join the UT Martin faculty.

“I started collecting his books for the institutional loan,” Saunders said, which expanded the UT Martin library’s collection of Kroll works. “Then we started finding out, well, he didn’t just write books, he wrote stories, hundreds of stories, hundreds and hundreds of stories.”

900 stories in fact, and that only includes the ones that have been found thus far, making him the state of Tennessee’s most published author.

“Most professional writers might publish 50-60 stories; he’s published 900,” Saunders said.

Saunders is quick to point out that Kroll’s work was common writing for the day, not high literature, which is partly the reason the man is lesser known. Schools and universities require the study of Hemingway novels, not Kroll adventures and romances. Yet books like Kroll’s were more widely read than their sophisticated counterparts, and are thus more reflective of American literary interests of the time.

“Kroll by himself is not tremendously important, but what he represents to American literature is the way that most Americans read prior to 1950. Most people did not read William Faulkner, most people did not read Ernest Hemingway,” Saunders said.

The sidewalk to Kroll’s Martin home near campus now leads to a vacant lot, the portrait commissioned by the student body has long been lost, but Kroll’s history at UT Martin remains firm in “Never Been Rich.”

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McMillan speaks to Martin Kiwanis Club

University of Tennessee at Martin Women’s Basketball Coach, Kevin McMillan, spoke to the Martin Kiwanis Club on Wednesday, November 23. The Martin Kiwanis Club meets Wednesdays at noon at UT Martin.
USDA gift brightens holidays in west Tennessee

In the spirit of giving during the holiday season, USDA Rural Development (RD) gave 14 students in West Tennessee the opportunity to make a difference in their communities. In partnership with the Ned McWherter Center for Rural Development, these students will receive training to become the next generation of leaders in rural America. Those present for the presentation of a Rural Business Enterprise Grant check in the amount of $25,000 are (l to r): Matt Varino, Van Wylie, Rep. Craig Fitzhugh, Bobby Goode, Michael McWherter, Sen. Roy Herron, Harriet Cannon, and Scott Golden.

Local student named McWherter Scholar

In the spirit of giving during the holiday season, USDA Rural Development gave 14 students in West Tennessee the opportunity to make a difference in their communities. In partnership with the Ned McWherter Center for Rural Development, these students will receive training to become the next generation of leaders in rural America.

Rural Development State Director Bobby Goode joined president of the Ned McWherter Center, State Senator Roy Herron, to announce federal support for the Center’s 2011-2012 leadership class. The Rural Business Enterprise Grant of $25,000 will be matched by $25,000 in contributions from the center to train West Tennessee college students in public service and leadership, ultimately improving the economic health of the communities they call home.

“The McWherter Scholars are among West Tennessee’s very best students and our future leaders,” said Herron. “Every dollar we invest in their education will repay our region multifold.”

Created in 2008, the Ned McWherter Center for Rural Development selects a small group of college students each year to participate in a demanding leadership program consisting of team building activities culminating in a group project geared to help rural areas overcome economic issues and educate. Participants must have a 3.5 grade point average, be a West Tennessee native, attend a college in West Tennessee and have a strong desire for public service.

“It is an honor for my family to be associated with such an outstanding program that develops the future leaders of our state,” said Michael R. McWherter, son of the late Ned McWherter. “The center’s administration understands the importance of education and training in the continued efforts to improve the lives of Tennesseans and with their help, the McWherter Scholars Program will brighten the future of Tennessee for years to come.”

“Governor McWherter was a visionary leader who saw the value in educating the future leaders of this country,” said Goode. “The Ned McWherter Center is his legacy, providing opportunity and challenge to the students ultimately affecting our rural communities in a positive way.”

Abbie Fuqua of Martin is the only Weakley County student among several from the region who were recently named McWherter Scholars.

Other students participating in the Fall 2011 class are: Whitney Pirtle of Enville, Alyssa Shirley of Ramer, Conor Luck of Halls, Merri Beth Byrd of Mason, Jonathan Naiser of Milan, Kirby Lewis of Lexington, Colby Pro瑟 of Henry, Kimberly Jerriff of Dyersburg, Rodney Stanback, Jr. of Jackson, Ennicka Willis of Jackson, Cisbley
Leading the way in West Tennessee

Every year, colleges turn out classes filled with the future of the country, students motivated to make a difference armed with innovative ideas to keep up with the ever-changing economies of rural America. In West Tennessee, the Ned McWherter Center for Rural Development assists a select group of individuals with training to become the next generation of leaders in rural America.

USDA Rural Development (RD) State Director Bobby Goode today joined State Senator and President of the Ned McWherter Center Roy Herron in announcing federal funding to support the activities of the next leadership class. The Rural Business Enterprise Grant of $25,000 will be matched by $25,000 in contributions from the center to train West Tennessee college students to be public service leaders that will ultimately assist businesses and educational institutions in their communities.

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Santa’s Village worker remembers first time volunteering

The annual fundraiser event held at the Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex on the University of Tennessee at Martin campus has been an area tradition for 26 years. While raising thousands of dollars for the local needy, the holiday wonderland setting, countless vendors and sleigh rides have also brought thousands of visitors to enjoy the massive Christmas celebration.

Goodman has experienced first hand the benefits that Santa’s Village provides even to those behind the scenes. When she was a freshman at UT Martin in 1997 she volunteered for the event, initially to get extra credit for an agriculture class.

“I had been to Santa’s Village as a child, and at that time I didn’t realize how many people it took to organize and set up the event,” Goodman said. “That was back when they had all the tree limbs and things painted white. I was helping to bring those in and brush them white.”

That was before her true value to the village was discovered.

“When they found out that I could make bows, I spent the rest of the time making bows,” Goodman said laughing. She added that she had initially learned bow-making from a floral design class in high school.

Bow after bow of Goodman’s seven-loop design was hung around the arena, adding to the holiday atmosphere that would brighten the days of thousands of guests.

“There was a lot of work that went into creating the child’s fantasy. It’s something fun that everyone looks forward to, but it’s also a great cause because it provides for those that need help during the holiday season. It’s a win-win,” Goodman said.

Ironically, all of that bow-making practice would come in handy for Goodman later in life. She began her collegiate career as an ag education major, but graduated in 2004 with a bachelor’s degree in family and consumer science and now works for the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service as an extension agent for family and consumer sciences in Fulton and Hickman counties in Kentucky.

Although she is also able to use her agriculture background to relate to the large agriculture industry in the two counties, part of Goodman’s job also involves crafting through cultural arts education to involve clientele.

“That kind of stuff comes in handy. I work with homemakers now and I do crafts with senior adults in the community, as well as 4-H students,” Goodman said. “Every step that I’ve taken, whether I understood it at that point or not, has influenced who I have become. All of that has given me the knowledge to help me help my clientele.”

These days Goodman entertains Santa’s Village patrons on her own time, and not for extra credit. She has returned to Santa’s Village for the past two years to make balloon animals for children, and she will be back again this year.

Goodman now lives in Fulton with her husband, Stephen, whom coincidentally, she met in that first freshman agriculture class, and her two sons Ezekiel and Elijah.

Santa’s Village is slated for 6-9 p.m., Dec. 8-9; 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Dec. 10; and 1-5 p.m., Dec. 11. It will be held at the Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex on the UT Martin campus.

Melissa Goodman remembers a time when almost everything at Santa’s Village was white.
Westview High School students participate in Annual Science Bowl

Westview High School participated in the recent 31st annual High School Science Bowl held at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Five schools participated in the afternoon bowl games and written test competitions, hosted by the Student Members of the American Chemical Society (SMACS). Pictured (front row, left to right): Dr. S. K. Airee - SMACS faculty advisor, Dr. Ann Gathers - associate professor of biology and Science Bowl Faculty, Chase Thweatt, Bryelle White, Tranquira Harrell, Annabelle Cormia, Rachel Samuel, Samantha Daily, Saba Getaneh; (back row, left to right): Gilbert J. Forgays - SMACS member, Stephanie R. Gourley - SMACS member, Austin Emerson, Abraham Haddad, Alex Crosser, Melissa Darroch, Kim Simmons - Westview teacher, Jessica Hightower - Westview teacher, and Lee A. Elliott - Science Bowl coordinator.

Holiday Food Drive supports Carl Perkins Center Families

Members of the University of Tennessee at Martin Criminal Justice Society held a canned food drive, which helped supply holiday food for Carl Perkins Center families. The members collected over 500 canned and boxed food items.

Pictured (kneeling, left to right): Jamie Janusz, Erika Klutts; (standing, left to right): Debbie Abel (Carl Perkins Center, Family Advocate), Mary Curry, Ashley Ford, and Erica Cleaves.
UTM professor publishes Kroll bio

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The first was Harry Harrison Kroll.

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Saunders recognized Kroll's importance not only to the past at UT Martin, but also literature history. After extensive research, he took it upon himself to publish the first-ever biography on the former composition teacher at UT Martin, cementing the narrative of his life and work in American history.


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However, Kroll is Tennessee's most published author, with over 900 published stories. He taught writing composition at UT Martin from 1934-58, during which time his eclectic and blunt personality gained him the status of one of the most popular professors on campus.

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It was not until the age of 19 that Kroll ever fathomed getting an education, according to the book. It was while traveling the countryside as a tramp photographer that he fell for the small town schoolteacher, Nettie Heard.

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The rest is history. Kroll attended George Peabody College for Teachers, married Miss Heard, went on to teach famous authors such as Jessie Stuart and Don West at Lincoln Memorial University, and had a successful career as a writer.

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Nine hundred stories, in fact, and that only includes the ones that have been found thus far, making him the state of Tennessee's most published author.

"Most professional writers might publish 50-60 stories; he's published 900," Saunders said.

Saunders is quick to point out that Kroll's work was common writing for the day, not high literature, which is partly the reason the man is lesser known. Schools and universities require the study of Hemingway novels, not Kroll adventures and romances. Yet books like Kroll’s were more widely read than their sophisticated counterparts and are thus more reflective of American literary interests of the time.

"Kroll, by himself, is not tremendously important, but what he represents to American literature is the way that most Americans read prior to 1950. Most people did not read William Faulkner, most people did not read Ernest Hemingway," Saunders said.

The sidewalk to Kroll's former Martin home near campus now leads to a vacant lot and the portrait commissioned by the student body has long been lost, but Kroll's history at UT Martin remains firm in "Never Been Rich."
OVC Coach of Year Rotary speaker

Darrin McClure, the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Head Women’s Volleyball coach, was guest speaker at the Fulton-South Fulton Rotary Club meeting Nov. 22.

McClure was recently named OVC Coach of the Year.

A Hickman County native, Coach McClure has been around volleyball most of his life. He was introduced to it by his parents, who played with church groups at First Baptist Church in Fulton when he was growing up.

McClure is a former Goodyear employee who gave up his job there to become the assistant UTM Volleyball coach under Chris Rushing in 2005. In 2006 McClure left UTM to teach junior high school history in Martin, Tenn., but he continued to coach various volleyball teams in west Tennessee. He returned to UTM in 2008 as interim coach, and in January 2009, he was named head coach. In three years, he led the Skyhawks to the OVC tournament, where they lost to Morehead State University in the championship match.

Coach McClure described the game of volleyball as a “unique, very spectator friendly, fast-paced, rebound sport.”

McClure said his job, although challenging, doesn’t feel like one, because he loves what he does every day.

This year’s team consisted of the 12 scholarship players plus four walk-ons. This number allowed for team-size scrimmages during practice in which each player continues to earn playing time every week. McClure said this helped them to be more competitive, as this year’s team rose from a preseason rank of number 10 to earning third place by the end of the regular season. His UTM team is number two in the nation on number of digs per game.

The coach stressed good academic performance for his players. Two of his players earned places on the All District Academic Team this year. He said he is excited about his team’s future with four outstanding recruits from Louisville coming to UTM next year.

Rotarian Amanda Joyner invited Darrin McClure, UTM Womens’ Volleyball Coach to speak at the Nov. 22 Fulton-South Fulton Rotary club meeting. Brad Darne, far right, president of the local club, welcomes Coach McClure along with Amanda Joyner, far left. (Photo submitted)

University wind ensemble to be featured in concert

Area music lovers are invited to a wind ensemble concert at 8:30 p.m. Thursday featuring Dr. Jessie Thoman, assistant professor of music at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The concert will be held in the ballroom on the second floor of the Boling University Center on the UT Martin campus.

Thoman will perform Richard Strauss’ Concerto No. 1, a piece Strauss wrote at age 18, which has become part of the standard French horn repertoire.

“Dr. Thoman performs every note with expression and beauty of tone that inspires our students to great musical heights,” Dr. Nola Jones, director of bands, said. “The work itself is centered around a thematic fanfare developed to showcase the instrument’s glorious qualities.”

The concert will also include music by Grantham, Shostakovich, Grainger and Nelson.

The performance is free and open to the public.